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Suspect in DC killings had help as he fled, officials say

RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA
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The weeklong hunt for a man wanted in the killings of four people in a Washington mansion tracked through Maryland, New York and Maryland again, before ending Thursday night near where it began, when the suspect and a group of his friends were caught on a Washington street.

Investigators have said little about why they believe that Daron D. Wint, bound, bludgeoned and stabbed three members of the Savopoulos family and their housekeeper before setting the house on fire, whether any accomplices were involved or what Wint and his friends were doing when they were arrested. But it is clear, investigators said, that he had help from a number of people as he tried to stay ahead of the search for him.

The family lived in an art-

filled, multimillion-dollar home in the Woodley Park neighborhood, near the official residence of the vice president. When fire gutted the house on May

After the killings, the Savopoulos' blue Porsche 911 turned up in a church parking lot in suburban Maryland, also burned. On Wednesday, investiga-

ment in Brooklyn, New York, but that he had fled - possibly tipped off by news reports that he was being hunted - and the task force just missed him.

A day later, the task force traced Wint to a Howard Johnson Express Inn, in College Park, Maryland; officials would not say how. While some members of the team were trying to figure out what room he was in, other members spotted Wint in the parking lot, sitting in a white Chevrolet Cruze sedan, and saw that he had company. Two women got into the car, one of them driving, investigators said, and two men apparently linked to them got into a box truck.

Unsure what kind of danger Wint and his friends posed, investigators decided not to try to arrest them where bystanders might get hurt, said Dave Oney, a spokesman for the Marshals Service. The car and

the box truck drove away, the occupants apparently unaware that a sizable force was following them. Around 11 p.m., the task force closed in, on a quiet stretch of Rhode Island Avenue N.E., near 10th Street, barely three miles from the Savopoulos home.

"They found a safe place to do a tactical stop, where they pin the cars in," Oney said. "There were more than 20 cars from several different agencies, and a helicopter from Prince George's County."

Police officers and federal agents quickly surrounded the two vehicles, and the occupants surrendered peacefully; Oney said no weapons were found. The four people with Wint, whose names have not been released, were also arrested, but have not yet been charged. Wint has been charged with first-degree felony murder while armed. □



A woman walks her dogs past the fire-damaged multimillion-dollar home in northwest Washington home, Friday May 22, 2015, where 46-year-old Savvas Savopoulos, his 47-year-old wife, Amy Savopoulos, the couple's 10-year-old son Philip, and housekeeper Veralicia Figueroa were found dead May 14.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

14, investigators made a grisly discovery inside: the bodies of Savvas Savopoulos, 46; his wife, Amy, 47; their son, Philip, 10; and the housekeeper, Veralicia Figueroa, 57.

tors with the U.S. Marshals Service's Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, which includes 40 federal, state and local agencies, said that they traced Wint, 34, to his girlfriend's apart-

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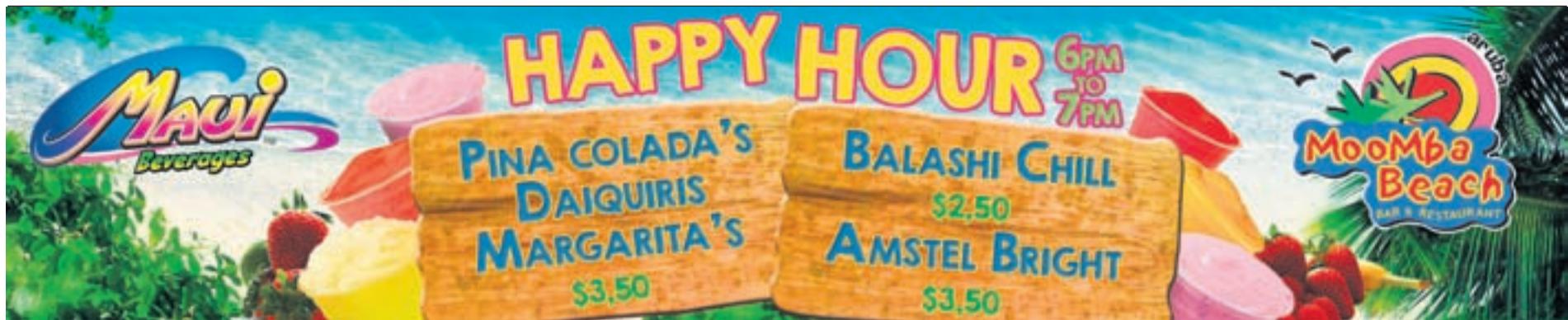
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Visting synagogue, Obama restates his commitment to Israel

Julie Hirschfeld Davis

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Friday sought to reassure American Jews that he loves and supports Israel, taking to the bimah for a fence-mending speech after a season of tension rooted in his push for a nuclear deal with Iran.

Calling himself an "honorary member of the tribe," Obama told attendees in the packed sanctuary at Adas Israel, a large Conservative congregation about three miles from the White House, that the United States had an "enduring friendship with the people of Israel" and "unbreakable bonds with the state of Israel" that could never be weakened.

"Our commitment to Israel's security and my commitment to Israel's security is, and always will be, unshakable," said Obama, who wore a white skullcap for the occasion.

The visit was billed as a way to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month and an initiative to combat anti-Semitism called Solidarity Shabbat.

But it was also the president's latest effort to bridge a rift between the administration and some Jewish leaders that has been worsened by his divisions with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel over both the agreement with Iran and a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"When I hear some people

say that disagreements over policy belie a general lack of support of Israel, I must object, and I object forcefully," Obama said. But he said he was unwilling to "paper over differences."

"It is precisely because I care so deeply about the state of Israel," he said, "that I feel a responsibility to speak out honestly about what I think would lead to long-term security and to the preservation of a true democracy in the Jewish homeland, and I believe that's two states for two peoples, Israel and Palestine, living side by side," peacefully and securely. The president used the roughly 30-minute speech to defend his quest for a deal to restrain Iran's ability



President Barack Obama smiles as he speaks at Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, Friday May 22, 2015, as part of Jewish American Heritage Month.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

to acquire a nuclear weapon, vowing that he would reject a "bad deal" or one that failed to meet his objective of cutting off Tehran's pathways to developing a bomb, and ar-

guing that such a deal was in Israel's best security interests.

Above all, Obama said, "the people of Israel must always know: America has its back." □

Obama signs bill giving Congress a say over the Iran nuclear deal

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Though he once vigorously opposed its involvement, President Barack Obama signed legislation Friday that gives the U.S. Congress the power to review and potentially reject a nuclear deal with Iran.

Achieving a deal with Iran is a central element of Obama's foreign policy ambitions, and the new law imposes conditions on his ability to act on his own. He signed the measure without ceremony Friday at the White House.

Negotiators from the U.S., China,

France, Russia, Great Britain and Germany are seeking a deal with Tehran by the end of June. Israel and some Persian Gulf nations worry Iran is simply delaying

its nuclear ambitions to get economic sanctions lifted. The legislation would bar Obama from waiving congressional sanctions for at least 30 days while lawmakers examine any final deal. Congress would have to pass a resolution of disapproval to reject an agreement, an action Obama likely would veto.

Obama had initially threatened to veto legislation that placed conditions that Iran would never accept. On Friday, speaking to a Jewish congregation in Washington, Obama sought to offer assurances that he wanted an iron-clad compact.

"I will not accept a bad deal," he said.

"This deal will have my name on it, so nobody has a bigger personal stake in making sure that it delivers on its promise." □

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Clinton got now-classified Benghazi info on private email

ISA LERER

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton received information on her private email server about the deadly attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi that has now been classified.

The email in question, forwarded to Clinton, the presumed Democratic presidential candidate in 2016, by her deputy chief of staff, Jake Sullivan, relates to reports of arrests in Libya of possible suspects in the attack in which four Americans were killed.

Because the information was not classified at the time the email was sent, no laws were violated. But Friday's redaction shows that Clinton received information considered sensitive on her unsecured personal server, which came to light just as she was beginning her presidential campaign.

Clinton, campaigning in

the early primary voting state of New Hampshire, said Friday she was aware that the FBI wanted some of the email to be classified, "but that doesn't change the fact all of the information in the emails was handled appropriately."

Asked if she was concerned it was on a private server, she replied, "No."

The information was not classified at the time the email was sent but was upgraded from "unclassified" to "secret" on Friday at the request of the FBI, according to State Department officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the decision. They said 23 words of the Nov. 18, 2012, message were redacted from Friday's release of 296 emails totaling 896 pages to protect information that could harm national security and damage foreign relations.

Officials who received the email have been informed that the 23 words are now



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to reporters after a round table discussion at Smuttynose Brewery, Friday, May 22, 2015, in Hampton, N.H.

(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

classified as "secret" and that they should take appropriate measures to protect it in any files they may have, the officials said.

No other redactions were made to the collection of Benghazi-related emails for classification reasons, the

officials said. They added that the Justice Department had not raised classification concerns about the now-redacted 1 1/2 lines when the documents were turned over to the special House committee looking into the Benghazi attack in February. The committee retains a complete copy of the email, the officials said. The email containing the now-classified information is at the end of a chain of communication that originated with Bill Roebuck. □

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California OKs offer of voluntary water cuts by farmers

FENIT NIRAPPIL

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California regulators on Friday accepted a historic offer by farmers to make a 25 percent voluntary water cut to avoid deeper mandatory losses during the drought.

Officials with the state Water Resources Control Board made the announcement involving farmers in the delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers who hold some of California's strongest water rights.

The several hundred farmers made the offer after state officials warned they were days away from ordering some of the first cuts in more than 30 years to the senior water rights holders.

California water law is built around preserving the water claims of those rights holders. The threat of state cuts is a sign of the worsening impacts of the four-year drought.

The state already has mandated 25 percent conservation by cities and towns and curtailed water deliv-



Gino Celli inspects wheat nearing harvest on his farm near Stockton, Calif. Celli, who farms 1,500 acres of land and manages another 7,000 acres, has senior water rights and draws his irrigation water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta who have California's oldest water rights are proposing to voluntarily cut their use by 25 percent to avoid the possibility of even harsher restrictions by the state later this summer as the record drought continues.

eries to many farmers and communities.

The most arid winter on record for the Sierra Nevada snowpack means there will be little runoff this summer to feed California's rivers, reservoirs and irrigation canals. As of Thursday, the U.S. Drought Monitor

rated 94 percent of California in severe drought or worse.

About 350 farmers turned out Thursday at a farmers' grange near Stockton to talk over the delta farmers' bid to stave off deeper cuts.

"That doesn't necessar-

ily mean they'll all participate" in the proposed voluntary cutbacks, said Michael George, the state's water master for the delta. But based on the farmers' comments, George said, he believed many will.

Under the deal, delta farmers would have until June 1 to lay out how they will use 25 percent less water during what typically is a rain-free four months until September. The delta is the heart of the water system in California, with miles of rivers interlacing fecund farmland. It supplies water to 25 million California residents and vast regions of farmland that produces nearly half of the fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in the U.S. Agriculture experts, however, say they would expect only modest immediate effects on food prices from any reduction in water to the senior water rights holders. Other states will be able to make up the difference if California moves away from low-profit crops, economists say.

State officials initially said they would also announce the first cuts of the four-year drought to senior rights holders on Friday. Water regulators said Thursday, however, that the announcement involving farmers and others in the watershed of the San Joaquin River would be delayed until at least next week. □

2 men arrested in California in Islamic State terrorism probe

AMY TAXIN

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) —

Two California men arrested by the FBI wanted to join the Islamic State group and bought a plane ticket for one of them to travel to Turkey with the hope of becoming a martyr, federal prosecutors said Friday.

The U.S. attorney's office charged 24-year-olds Nader Elhuzayel and Muhanad Badawi with conspiring to provide material support to a terrorism group. The men are expected to make a court appearance Friday afternoon in Santa Ana.

Elhuzayel was taken into custody at Los Angeles International Airport, and Badawi was arrested late Thursday in Anaheim, where both men live, authorities said. The two men discussed their support for the Islamic State on social media and in conversa-

tion, saying it would be a blessing to join the fight and die on the battlefield, prosecutors said in a complaint. About two weeks later, Badawi let Elhuzayel use his debit card to buy a one-way Tel Aviv, Israel-bound plane ticket with a six-hour layover in Istanbul, Turkey, the complaint said. Elhuzayel had met a Palestinian woman on the Internet he planned to marry who shared his support of the Islamic State group, according to the complaint. Badawi told another man about Elhuzayel's plan, saying "I'm gonna join soon. I don't know how soon, but I will go," the complaint said.

After his arrest, Elhuzayel told authorities he was planning on getting off the plane in Turkey and traveling to fight with the Islamic State, the complaint said. □



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US Financial Front:

Consumer prices ticking up as Fed weighs first rate hike



Shoppers walk past a Dior luxury goods shop on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, Calif. The Labor Department released the Consumer Price Index for April on Friday, May 22, 2015.

(AP Photo/Richard Vogel)

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Core consumer prices outside of food and energy posted the biggest increase in April in more than a year, suggesting that an improving U.S. economy is finally starting to lift prices.

That could prompt the Federal Reserve to start raising interest rates later this year.

Overall consumer prices edged up 0.1 percent for the third straight climb, the Labor Department said Friday. Overall gains were held back by a 1.3 percent drop in energy costs.

But excluding food and energy, core inflation rose 0.3 percent in April, marking the biggest one-month increase since January 2013. That means core inflation has risen at an annual rate of 2.6 percent over the past three months — the fastest pace in four years.

Paul Ashcroft, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said while overall

inflation still remains very low, the trend in core prices is likely to spark concerns at the central bank. The Fed has kept interest rates at ultra-low levels for the past six years to help the economy recover from a deep recession.

"The Fed can't wait forever before beginning to raise interest rates," Ashcroft said, agreeing with many other economists that the Fed will likely start raising rates in September. The increase in the core rate was driven by a 0.7 percent surge in medical costs, reflecting higher hospital charges.

Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said that both overall inflation and core prices have accelerated modestly over the past six months.

"This suggests that although inflation remains very tame, economic growth, sporadic as it is, ... is helping prices stabilize instead of fall," Lee said in a note to clients. Overall inflation still remains

very low. Consumer prices are down 0.2 percent from 12 months ago, reflecting a nearly 20 percent drop in energy prices. And even with the April increase, core prices are up a moderate 1.8 percent from a year ago.

But analysts noted price increases in a number of areas in April. In addition to medical costs, the price

of used cars, household furnishings and rent payments all climbed last month.

"While inflation is not a major concern, the pattern of prices is changing," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors. "It used to be hard to find any category where costs were going up but now the opposite is true. Most categories are

posting increases."

In April, gasoline prices on a seasonally adjusted basis fell 1.7 percent after having posted increases in the past two months. The nationwide average for gasoline is currently \$2.73, according to the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge. While that is up 27 cents from a month ago, it is still 91 cents below the level a year ago. □



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Heavy Saudi-led airstrikes target Shiite rebels in Yemen

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — The Saudi-led coalition on Friday launched heavy airstrikes against Shiite rebels in Yemen, targeting camps and weapons depots in the rebel-held capital, as a U.N. agency said some 234 children were killed in violence over the past two months.

Residents of Sanaa awoke to the sound of explosions early Friday morning as warplanes targeted weapons caches in Noqum mountain, sending up

bursts of flames and columns of smoke.

As night fell over Sanaa Friday night, another set of airstrikes across the capital sent residents scrambling for shelter. Witnesses told The Associated Press the airstrikes were among the most extensive and powerful since the beginning of the coalition campaign on March 26.

Airstrikes also targeted the rebels, known as Houthis, in their northern home base of Saada province. Witnesses described seeing Apache helicopters flying



Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, stand guard after a bomb explosion at a mosque in Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, May 22, 2015. The Saudi-led coalition on Friday launched heavy airstrikes on Shiite rebels in Yemen, targeting camps and weapons depots in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa as UN agency says some 234 children were killed in violence over the past two months. Arabic writing on banners at a wall reads "Allah is the greatest. Death to America. Death to Israel. A curse on the Jews. Victory to Islam."

overhead that appeared to be targeting rebel vehicles. All witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for their safety. Yemen's war pits forces loyal to the country's exiled president against the Houthis and allied military units. In Saada province on Friday, a new front in the war appeared to have opened as heavily armed pro-government tribes-

men began advancing on the city of Saada — the capital of Saada province and the stronghold of the Houthi rebels, according to military officials and tribesmen.

The Houthis have occasionally carried out cross-border attacks from Saada, which borders Saudi Arabia. Yahia al-Qahtani, the spokesman for the Saudi civil defense authority in the southern Saudi border region of Jizan, said on Friday that a child was killed and three other children wounded when missiles from inside Yemen struck their village a day earlier. Elsewhere, Yemeni security officials said three suspected al-Qaida members were killed in a drone strike on their vehicle in the southern province of Shabwa. □

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IS loyalists claim Saudi mosque attack

A. AL-SHIHRI

A. BATRAWY

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A suicide bomber killed at least 19 people Friday in a blast inside a Shiite mosque in eastern Saudi Arabia as worshippers commemorated the 7th century birth of a revered figure, residents and officials said.

Loyalists of the extremist Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack — the second against Shiites in the kingdom in six months. In November, the extremist Islamic State group was accused of being behind the shooting

and killing of eight worshippers in the eastern Saudi Arabian village of al-Ahsa. Despite a string of IS-related attacks over the past several months that have also targeted police, Friday's suicide bombing appears to be the deadliest in the country in nearly a decade.

Habib Mahmoud, managing editor for the state-linked Al-Sharq newspaper in Qatif, said that the local Red Crescent authorities confirmed to him that 19 people had been killed and 28 wounded.

Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry has not released its count for the number of

dead and wounded, but said that a suicide bomber who hid explosives under his clothes was behind the attack. Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki said that the attacker struck the Imam Ali mosque in a village called al-Qudeeh. In a statement distributed on Twitter feeds linked to IS group loyalists, a group purporting to be the IS branch in Saudi Arabia issued the claim. It could not be independently confirmed if the new group actually has operational links to the Islamic State group, which is based in Syria and Iraq. □



An Islamic State fighter fires his weapon against Syrian forces on a road between Homs and Palmyra, Syria. (IS Website via AP)

IS captures Iraqi city, purges foes within Palmyra

BASSEM MROUE
SAMEER N. YACOUB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State group militants searched through the Syrian town of Palmyra for government troops and fighters, using lists of names and informers to track them down and shooting some in the head on the spot, activists said Friday, estimating at least 150 have been killed in the past two days.

The purge was part of a clampdown by the extremist group to solidify its grip on the town since overrunning it late Wednesday. The militants have also imposed a curfew from 5 p.m. until sunrise and banned people from leaving town until Saturday morning to ensure none of the government figures they seek manage to escape, activists and officials said.

The door-to-door hunt for opponents was similar to a purge the militants carried out in the Iraqi city of Ramadi after capturing it last week.

"The search is going from house to house, shop to shop and people on the streets have to show identity cards," said Osama al-Khatib, an activist from Palmyra who is currently in Turkey. Al-Khatib last contacted his friends and relatives in Palmyra on Friday morning before the government cut off all land and cellular telephones as well as Internet service in the town.

IS fighters have also detained dozens of suspects after seizing Palmyra, which is home to one of the Middle East's most famous archaeological sites, activists and officials said. □



wednesday | may 20

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10am - 2pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD SHOW with GEE MONEY - LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN

10am - 3pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE MID-DAY WITH TRISCINA GREY - WHUR, WASHINGTON DC

3pm - 7pm

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino - Poolside (Oranjestad)

THE DOUG BANKS RADIO SHOW - NATIONALLY SYNDICATED

3pm - 7pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE FRANK SKI SHOW - WHUR, WASHINGTON DC

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

MooMba Beach Party (Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ DIABLO, ARUBA

CARUBBIAN FESTIVAL

6pm - 10pm (Entry Fee: TBD)

Location: San Nicholas

Packages and Information available at all De Palm Tours Hotel Desks

NIGHTCLUB PARTY

10pm - 3am (Entry Fee starts at \$20 at the door)

Hard Rock Cafe (Noord)

FEATURING: DJ CHRIS DOPE - THE BAY, CA & DJ OUTCAST, ST. MAARTEN

friday | may 22

LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS

7am - 10am

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE SUPPA DUPPA MORNING SHOW W/ SUPPA KID & DEE - LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN

10am - 2pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE AM/PM WORKLOAD SHOW with GEE MONEY - LASER 101, ST. MAARTEN

10am - 3pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE MID-DAY WITH TRISCINA GREY - WHUR, WASHINGTON DC

3pm - 7pm

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino - Poolside (Oranjestad)

THE DOUG BANKS RADIO SHOW - NATIONALLY SYNDICATED

3pm - 7pm

MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

THE FRANK SKI SHOW - WHUR, WASHINGTON DC

15th ANNUAL SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

MooMba Beach Party (Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ CHRIS DOPE - THE BAY, CA & DJ DIABLO, ARUBA

SOUL BEACH COMEDY CONCERT

7pm - 10pm

Renaissance Festival Plaza (Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED INTO CONCERT VENUES)

D.L. HUGHLEY

BRANDON T. JACKSON

Hosted By: GEORGE WILLBORN

NIGHTCLUB PARTY

11pm - 3am (Entry Fee starts at \$20 at the door)

Renaissance Convention Center (Oranjestad)

FEATURING: DJ FRANK SKI - WHUR, WASHINGTON DC & DJ DIABLO, ARUBA

saturday | may 23

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

11am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

MooMba Beach Party (Palm Beach)

FEATURING: DJ CHRIS DOPE - THE BAY, CA & DJ DIABLO, ARUBA

SOUL BEACH MUSIC CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Harbor Arena (Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED INTO CONCERT VENUES)

CHARLIE WILSON

DRU HILL

LILY RODGERS

Hosted By: DOUG E. FRESH

NIGHTCLUB PARTY

11pm - 3am (Entry Fee starts at \$20 at the door)

Renaissance Convention Center (Oranjestad)

FEATURING: DJ DEE WIZ, NEW YORK & DJ OUTCAST, ST. MAARTEN

sunday | may 24

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT

10am - 3pm (No Entry Fee)

Location: Baby Beach (San Nicolas)

Transportation: See De Palm Tours Hotel Desks

FEATURING: DJ DIABLO, ARUBA & DJ OUTCAST, ST. MAARTEN

SOUL BEACH MUSIC CONCERT

7pm - 11pm

Harbor Arena (Oranjestad)

(NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED INTO CONCERT VENUES)

TREY SONGZ

ESTELLE

BULERIA

Hosted By: DOUG E. FRESH

NIGHTCLUB PARTY

11pm - 3am (Entry Fee starts at \$20 at the door)

Renaissance Convention Center (Oranjestad)

FEATURING: DJ DEE WIZ, NEW YORK & DJ DIABLO, ARUBA

monday | may 25

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Cameron: Tough times for EU ahead of UK membership vote

RIGA, Latvia (AP) — British Prime Minister David Cameron set off Friday on a whirlwind campaign to change the way the European Union is run, warning of a rough road ahead to achieve the reform needed to keep his country from leaving.

Ever the halfhearted EU member, Britain now wants to cut back the political powers the EU has over member states on sensitive issues like welfare and immigration.

Cameron has pledged to hold a national vote before the end of 2017 on whether Britain should leave the EU. If there is no reform, he has indicated there could be a Brexit, the term for a potential British exit.

"I've always said that if



British Prime Minister David Cameron speaks during a media conference at the conclusion of the Eastern Partnership summit in Riga, Latvia on Friday, May 22, 2015. EU leaders gathered for a second day of meetings with six post-communist nations to discuss various issues, including enlargement, the economy and Ukraine.

(AP Photo/Mindaugas Kulbis)

I don't get what I think I need, I rule nothing out," Cameron said Friday.

But no other nation is actively seeking such profound change, and many maintain that a united voice and common policies are the way ahead.

"I am not going to say I was met with a wall of love

when I arrived," Cameron said.

In his first meeting with EU counterparts since his election victory earlier, Cameron said his reform drive will certainly stir up emotions.

"One day you are going to hear this is possible. Then you are going to hear that it's completely impossible. You hear the Germans say 'no' and the French say 'yes,' and the Italians say. You're going to hear loads of stuff," he said.

He has already had several bilateral meetings at the EU-Eastern Partnership summit and will visit French President Francois Hollande Thursday and German Chancellor Angela Merkel next Friday.

The issue is one of the most important facing his government in the next five years and will likely start to increasingly affect the workings of the EU.

Some EU leaders have acknowledged they share some of his concerns, but have insisted that allowing people to travel freely across the EU's 28 nations remains a cornerstone of

their policies, whatever the British objections.

"Freedom of movement is the core value of the European Union," Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite said.

Cameron said the issue was not so much people coming to Britain as them getting access to the welfare system too easily, and that Europe must be able to address it.

Hollande said it is up to Britain to do the heavy lifting if it wants to push through change.

"We ask for nothing. Europe is not concerned by a vote," the French president said.

Britain's industry and services sector stands to lose billions in trade if the country leaves the EU. Europe would also lose if Britain departs, leaving the continent with much less diplomatic and military clout.

"In the end, it is in everybody's interest" to avoid a breakup, Cameron said.

"Britain benefits from being in a reformed EU. But I think a reformed European Union will benefit from having Britain in it." □



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Dutch government:

Limited ban on face-covering clothing probed

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch government announced plans Friday to introduce a limited ban on "face-covering clothing," widely interpreted as a new attempt to outlaw burqas, the head-to-toe Islamic robe worn by only a few hundred women in this European nation of 17 million.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte said his ruling coalition has drawn up a proposal aimed at banning people

from wearing clothing that obscures the face on public transport and in schools, government buildings and medical institutions. The proposal will be sent to a panel of legal advisers for assessment. The panel, the Council of State, was heavily critical in 2012 of an attempt by the government to ban burqas, saying it breached religious freedom provisions in the Dutch constitution.

Rutte insisted the latest move is not targeting any particular religious group

and will not go as far as the earlier attempt at a general ban on burqas.

"It has nothing to do with religion or what people do in their own homes," he said.

Interior Minister Ronald Plasterk said people "can still walk along the street in a burqa," but added they would have to remove it to get onto a bus.

France in 2011 became the first country in Europe to enact a law forbidding face-covering veils anywhere in public. □



Currency tumbles as Venezuelans look to offload bolivars



Bank workers handle Venezuela's currency, the "Bolívar Fuerte," or Strong Bolívar, at the Central Bank in Caracas, Venezuela. Venezuelans are expressing disbelief as the country's currency has lost a quarter of its value on the black market in the space of a week in 2015, between May 14 and 22. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A staggering plunge in the free market value of Venezuelan currency sent people scrambling to sell off their depreciating bolívares Friday.

The widely followed website DolarToday, which tracks exchanges along the Co-

lombian border, reported that the South American country's currency lost a quarter of its value over the last eight days.

The site's app has become so ubiquitous that everyone in smartphone-obsessed Caracas seemed to find out about the crash through 400 to the dollar at the same instant, as Dolar-

Today sent out a series of alerts announcing the new numbers under the headline "hyperinflation!"

Venezuelan currency was trading at 415 bolívares per dollar Friday, according to the site. That's down from 300 bolívares per dollar on May 14. It stood at 173 when the year started.

While many black market dealers paused transactions until the rate stabilizes, some Venezuelans said they had changed money at the 400 bolívar rate Friday. It was not immediately clear what prompted the sudden drop, though a Bar-

clay Capital Inc. report issued Friday described the underlying cause as government expansion of the money supply.

"We do not see any signal of change from the authorities but these risks should make them reconsider their policies," it said.

Barclays projected the Bolívar could dip as low as 600 to the dollar this year. The administration of President Nicolas Maduro keeps tight control over the legal exchange of bolívares, using a byzantine three-tier system. It is meant to subsidize crucial imports, but has led

to widespread corruption and speculation.

The strongest rate is 6.3 bolívares per dollar. The weakest official rate, which was billed as an alternative to the black market when it was rolled out earlier this year, has inched up to 200 bolívares per dollar. The fact many are willing to pay double that price for black-market dollars indicates the supply is limited.

The Maduro administration has been hoarding dollars as it grapples with falling oil prices. That has contributed to shortages and other economic distortions. □

Colombia rebels cancel unilateral cease-fire after army raids camp

JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombia's largest rebel group on Friday called off a unilateral cease-fire in reaction to a military raid on a guerrilla camp that killed 26 of its fighters, further straining negotiations to end the country's half-century-old conflict.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia said in a statement Friday that it hadn't wanted to lift the five-month-old truce aimed at facilitating the peace talks, but that the constant pursuit of its fighters by the military made it necessary.

The Thursday attack on the guerrilla camp in Cauca province, which President Juan Manuel Santos called a major blow against the FARC, appears to have been in retaliation for the rebels' own stealth raid last month, also in Cauca, on an army patrol. Ten soldiers were killed in that attack, which led Santos to scrap his own confidence-building gesture: a ban on launching air raids against guerrilla camps.

Santos on Friday said that the army seized an important stockpile of weapons during the latest raid, including 37 assault rifles and a M60 machine gun. □



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Art world descends on Cuba for a month amid surging interest

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A surge in interest in all things Cuban is extending to paintings and sculpture, with U.S. art collectors and dealers descending on Havana for a monthlong exhibition amid expectations that art prices will rise because of the detente between the former Cold War rivals.

The event known as the Biennial, or the Bienal in Spanish, was opening Friday with works by artists from 40 countries at museums, galleries and outdoor spaces around Cuba's capital. But most of the at-

tention is on the works of native-born artists, especially for the legions of foreign collectors and dealers who have been filling hotels and restaurants in recent days.

It is taking place at a historic moment in U.S.-Cuba relations. In December, President Barack Obama and President Raul Castro announced that they would move toward restoring the diplomatic relations that were broken off in 1961. While the decades-long U.S. economic embargo remains in place and general tourism is still illegal, the Obama administration has



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People enjoy an artificial beach as a car drives by on the Malecon as part of a collective artistic intervention named "Behind The Wall" in Havana, Cuba. The collective artistic intervention is part of the Havana Biennial Art Fair that starts on May 22. (AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

eased restrictions on travel and commerce. Cuban officials say the number of U.S. visitors — both legal and otherwise — was up by more than 30 percent in the first four months of the year.

That is carrying over into the Biennial, said Alberto Magnan, a Cuban-American gallery owner from New York who represents artists taking part in the exhibition.

"The energy is better than I've seen in any of the Biennials," said Magnan, who attended five of the previous exhibitions. "I've seen more U.S. collectors than I've ever seen and it hasn't even begun yet. Times are changing and I believe that with the new Obama policy it's changing faster than we think."

Even under the embargo, it's legal for U.S. citizens to purchase Cuban art, though works cannot be directly commissioned by a U.S. buyer and cannot have been financed by the Cuban government. Some

collectors have taken advantage of that loophole, though prices remain relatively low, according to Howard Farber, a resident of New York and Miami Beach whose foundation publishes the online Cuban Art News magazine.

He sees that changing fast. "You're getting a lot of collectors who are running to Cuba to buy art," Farber said. "It's the biggest opportunity for an art collector to start a collection."

Art critic Rafael Acosta de Arriva agreed. "It's going to be a moment of major effervescence," he said. "It's good to note that the Bienal is not put together to promote the commerce of art but to explore artistic themes. But the collectors tend to take advantage of this great moment and a lot of buying and selling gets done." More than 1,200 people have formally signed up to participate in Biennial events, which run through June 22, said Jorge Fernandez, one of the organizers. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

A High-Flying Success: Kiwanis Club of Aruba's Annual Kite Competition for All Kids!



ORANJESTAD - Kiwanis Club of Aruba had their annual event, which was the "Kite Competition" for all the kids of Aruba. The event started with a workshop of how to create a kite. This year the kids of Emma School had the opportunity to participate with this workshop. Right after the workshop the kids of Emma School, could also participate and be part of the event with their Kite's donated by the Kiwanis Club of Aruba.

In the early afternoon the competition started for all the Kids from Aruba to participate. The beautiful sky at the Field of Calabas was adorned by the creativity and originality of the different Kite's in all sorts of shapes, colors and sizes. To experience the creativity of each participant and how together with the spectators they watched with lots of enthusiasm how the Kite they created with much dedication rise up in



the sky surely contributed to making the competition and the event a very unique one. Due to the great amount of participating Kite's the competition was still going on into the late hours of the afternoon while the sun was setting. Nevertheless, with lots of energy the participants kept on competing to win one of many great prizes as it is known to have every year for the winners.

The prizes consisted of dif-



ferent bicycles and gift certificates which were handed out by Kiwanis Club of Aruba and different participating sponsors who collaborates every year with this event.

The winners in Category A – Kite of 45x75cm were; Janrich Bello, Zyron Croes, Janilaine Bello, Michelangelo Tromp, Lagabena Flyer, Lijendrick Webb and Alex Arends. In Category B – Kite of 76x150cm the winners were; Jahron Tromp,

Gregory Gomez, Greg Flanegin, Thais Tromp, Clarilaine Corness and Lagabena Flyer.

The event was entertained with great music and Dino Jump for the kids.

The President of Kiwanis Club of Aruba, Mrs. Marjory Clark, thanked all organizations and sponsors who collaborated through their donations have contributed in making this event a memorable one for the kids and their entire family. □





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With a 'Certificate of Excellence' from TripAdvisor:

The Blue Lobster Restaurant Recognized as a Top Performer!

PALM BEACH - Now in its fifth year, The Blue Lobster Restaurant is proud to announce that it has again received TripAdvisor's coveted 'Certificate of Excellence' award! The award celebrates excellence in hospitality and is given only to establishments that consistently achieve great reviews of their wonderful dinner experience. "Winning the TripAdvisor certificate of excellence is a true source of pride for the entire team at The Blue Lobster Restaurant and we'd like to thank all our guests who took the time to complete a review on TripAdvisor," said Director German Castano. "There



is no greater seal of approval in this industry than being recognized by the customers. This Certificate is a vote of confidence to our business and our continued commitment to excellence!"

Since their opening, guests have enjoyed the excel-

lent quality of not only the cuisine, but also the service too, taking care of guests' needs with care and professionalism. This has made The Blue Lobster one of the best restaurants on Aruba. During the month of May, 2015, the Blue Lobster Restaurant is offering a Special 3 Course Menu for an incredible price, with the choice of two appetizers and four main dishes, including Grouper fillet with lobster sauce, Shrimp skewers, Chicken linguini Alfredo, or Sweet banana Grouper fillet topped with sweet plantains and Gouda cheese! The special



menu also offers desserts like homemade caramel flan and chocolate banana cake. The fantastic regular menu prepared for this summer is also available with incredibly reasonable prices, so you can enjoy high quality cuisine and service without breaking the bank! The restaurant is open for lunch from 11am to 4pm and dinner from 5pm to 11pm, and the Blue Lobster Restaurant is also excited to introduce their NEW Delivery Menu. And of course the Out Of This World and incredible taste of the delicious Caribbean Lobster, which has guests calling this wonderful eatery the 'Best Lobster House on Aruba!' The Blue Lobster offers the best choices on lobster tail on different sizes from 48oz till 10oz and has an incredible array of dishes made out of lobster (18 in total) while it serves regular seafood, meat, poultry, Vegetarian, Italian and even Creole dishes.

The rest of the menu goes from the fresh catch of the day, Caribbean shrimp, seafood, surf & turf land and sea combinations, chicken schnitzel, chicken parmesan Italian dishes, all with NEW SUMMER PRICES.

For reservations or information please contact us at Tel: 586-3843 or visit us on our website: www.arubaabluelobster.com or our Facebook page: The Blue Lobster Restaurant Aruba Give it a try you will be pleasantly surprised! □





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Two For the Road From Aruba

ORANJESTAD - All the best to you, Karin, from all of us at De Suikertuin! One of the drawbacks of living on Aruba is that sometimes you have to take leave of friends, who return to Holland. They need to leave the island to pick up their careers or for personal reasons. Last week it was time to say goodbye to De Suikertuin's manager Karin Schep, who left for Holland with her husband. De Suikertuin already misses Karin, whose optimistic



outlook on life, her flexibility and kind words will never be forgotten. Karin was a great colleague and a good friend to everyone at De Suikertuin. So all the best to you, Karin, and we hope you will be very happy. Thank you for everything you have done. Also, thank you, Mark, for making your team such a success! Yes, it's true, super bar manager Mark Sluyter has left the island. Understandably Mark wanted to be close to his daughter and elderly mother; everyone he worked with will miss him and they wish Mark all the best!

Fortunately Andre (Danny) Perez is now taking up the slack; Andre has a lot of hotel experience under his belt. Together, Ab Liebenton and Avril Thomas now have a great team.

Guests have already made favorable comments about the changes that Andre has made. So best of luck to Mark and 'bon bini' to Andre. □

Happy Birthday Jay Minihan!

PALM BEACH - Jay Minihan celebrates his birthday in Aruba every year! It's the best place to celebrate! One happy island makes for a Very Happy Birthday: Enjoy it Jay!



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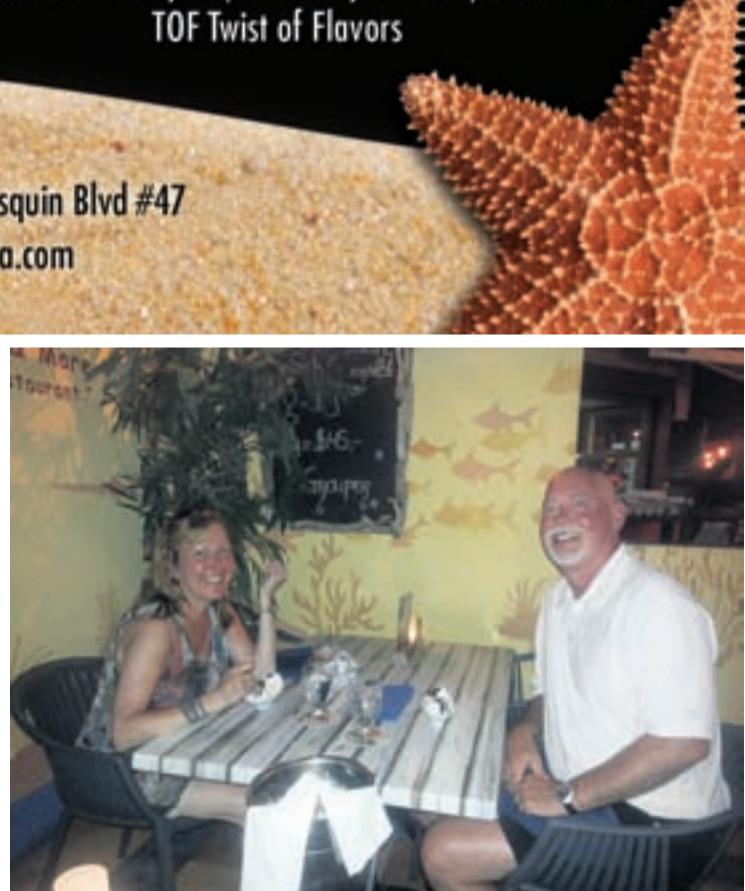


Memorial Day Ceremony to be held at Costa Linda

EAGLE BEACH - Coming Monday morning at 10am sharp, in honor of America's Memorial Day, a memorial service will be held on Eagle Beach in front of the Costa Linda Beach Resort, to pay tribute to fallen

comrades in arms. A group informally dubbed "the Costa Linda vets," together with Mr. Frank Nini, would herewith like to invite you to join this event, which has grown annually in attendance since their

first observance in 2004. This very first Ceremony was attended by only four people, while last year the group counted 150! Come and remember the Veterans from all over the world on this special day. □



Celebrating 35 of marriage at Fishes & More on Aruba

PALM BEACH - David and Lori Carr from Glen Ellyn, Illinois, decided to do something wild and book a trip to Aruba to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. And what a trip it has been: they are having fun, enjoying the islanders, loving the beaches and the restaurants and most important of all, loving each other. The couple, 57 and 55 years young, read about Fishes & More Restaurant in a local

publication and decided to check out this popular place in the Arawak Garden across from the Occidental Resort. Dave ordered the Fresh Catch and Lori the Red Snapper, both delicious. The service at Fishes & More was excellent and it made their evening even more magical. Congratulations, David and Lori! And now that you have found Aruba, please come back soon! □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



BEAT L.A.



Bumgarner outduels Kershaw as Giants beat Dodgers

San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Madison Bumgarner pitches in the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Thursday, May 21, 2015 in San Francisco.

Associated Press
Page 19



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Pearce's slam lifts Orioles past Mariners 5-4

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Steve Pearce hit his first career grand slam, J.J. Hardy singled in the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning and Baltimore weathered a lengthy rain delay and a comeback by Seattle. After Pearce connected in the first inning for a 4-0 lead, the Orioles managed only one more hit until Chris Davis led off the eighth with a single off Danny Farquhar (0-3). Davis advanced on a groundout and scored on an awkward slide after Hardy bounced a single up the middle.

Tommy Hunter (1-1) worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth and Zach Britton got three straight outs for his ninth save.

Although the Mariners rallied from the early deficit, they went 3 for 15 with runners in scoring position and had 13 left on base. Playing his first game with Seattle after being traded from the Cubs on Tuesday, catcher Welington Castillo drove in a run and scored one.

RAYS 3, ATHLETICS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Alex Colome and four relievers combined on a six-hitter, David DeJesus drove in two runs and Tampa Bay beat Oakland to take sole possession of first place in the AL East.

Colome (3-1) gave up four hits over five innings. Steve Geltz, Kevin Jepsen, Jake McGee and Brad Boxberger, who pitched the ninth for his 12th save, all threw an inning.

DeJesus had an RBI double in the fourth and hit a solo homer during a two-run seventh that put Tampa Bay up 3-0. The Rays (23-19), who took a half-game lead over the idle New



Baltimore Orioles' Steve Pearce hits a grand slam home run in the first inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Thursday, May 21, 2015, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

York Yankees, have held opponents to two or fewer runs in 21 of 42 games this season.

Jesse Chavez (1-4) allowed three runs and five hits in six-plus innings for Oakland, which has lost 13 of 15. It's the first time the A's (14-29) have been 15-games under .500 since Sept. 27, 2011.

TIGERS 6, ASTROS 5, 11 INNINGS

DETROIT (AP) — James McCann hit a leadoff home run in the 11th inning, lifting Detroit over Houston.

McCann sent an 0-2 pitch from Tony Sipp (2-1) into the Tigers' bullpen, just beyond the reach of leaping left fielder Colby Rasmus. It was the second homer of his career.

Alex Wilson (2-0) pitched

two scoreless innings for the win.

Detroit led 5-0 after six innings. Pinch-hitter Preston Tucker tied it with one out in the ninth, connecting off Joakim Soria for his first career homer.

Astros reliever Josh Fields got the first out in the bottom of the ninth, but had to leave the game after Anthony Gose's liner hit him on the right knee.

Will Harris came in to strike out Ian Kinsler and Miguel Cabrera to send the game to extra innings.

RANGERS 3, RED SOX 1

BOSTON (AP) — Mitch Moreland hit a solo homer and drove in two runs, Wandy Rodriguez pitched 6 2-3 solid innings and Texas beat Boston.

Moreland added two sin-

gles for the Rangers. They won for the third time in four games to capture the series after losing the opener.

Rodriguez (2-2) allowed one run and four hits, struck out five and walked two after not getting out of the fifth inning in his previous start, a loss to Cleveland last Friday when he gave up eight hits and five runs. Shawn Tolleson got three outs for the save.

Clay Buchholz (2-5) gave up three runs — two earned — and five hits in 7 2-3 innings.

David Ortiz drove in Boston's run, tying Fred McGriff for 43rd on the career list with 1,550 RBIs.

BLUE JAYS 8, ANGELS 4

TORONTO (AP) — R.A. Dickey snapped a two-start los-

ing streak with a complete game, Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run home run and Toronto beat Los Angeles.

Danny Valencia added a solo homer to help the Blue Jays won for the second time in nine games.

It was Dickey's first nine-inning complete game since June 26, 2013, when he beat Tampa Bay.

He had an eight-inning compete game in a loss at Oakland last July.

Dickey (2-5) allowed four runs and five hits, walked two and struck out a season-high seven.

David Freese hit a two-run homer and Marc Krauss added a solo shot for Los Angeles. The Angels had won nine of their previous 11 in Toronto.

INDIANS 5, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Danny Salazar threw six scoreless innings and was backed by first-inning home runs from Nick Swisher and Mike Aviles, leading Cleveland past Chicago.

Salazar was coming off his worst start of the season in which he allowed five earned runs in 4 2-3 innings against Texas on May 16. He recovered to help the Indians take three of four from Chicago while winning their third straight for the first time this season.

Salazar (5-1) walked three, but struck out eight while giving up five hits to hand Chicago its first series loss at home.

John Danks (2-4) allowed five runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Chicago's Jose Abreu went 1 for 4 and extended his hitting streak to 16 games. Tyler Flowers hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth off Bryan Shaw to avoid the shutout. □

Bumgarner homers off Kershaw, Giants again blank Dodgers

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Madison Bumgarner homered off Clayton Kershaw and once again out-pitched the reigning NL MVP and Cy Young winner, too, as the San Francisco Giants shut out the Los Angeles Dodgers for the third straight day, 4-0 on Thursday.

The Giants outscored the Dodgers 10-0 in sweeping the three-game series.

This was the third time this season that Bumgarner, the current World Series MVP, had started against Kershaw — the Giants have won all three.

Bumgarner (5-2) worked around seven hits and two walks in 6 1-3 innings, striking out six. He improved to 9-3 in his last 13 starts against the Dodgers.

Bumgarner became the first pitcher to homer off Kershaw (2-3). The Giants' star connected for his seventh career home run, hitting a solo shot into the bleachers in left in the third. Last year, Bumgarner hit four home runs, including two grand slams. He had managed just one single in 17 at-bats this year going into the game.

METS 5, CARDINALS 0

NEW YORK (AP) — Jacob deGrom retired his final 23 batters following a first-inning single, and Lucas Duda hit two long homers to nearly the same spot in New York's victory over St. Louis.

In his latest stingy start at Citi Field, deGrom struck out 11 over eight dominant innings. His only blemish was Matt Carpenter's clean single with one out in the first.

Michael Cuddyer had his



San Francisco Giants' Madison Bumgarner hits a solo home run in the bottom of the third inning off Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw during a baseball game, Thursday, May 21, 2015 in San Francisco.

first three-hit game of the season and also walked for a perfect day at the plate. John Mayberry Jr. put the slumping Mets lineup on the scoreboard with an RBI single in the fourth. Besides the single by Carpenter, the lone Cardinals hitter to reach base was Kolten Wong with a two-out single off Jeurys Familia in the ninth. The lack of offense left Jaime Garcia (0-1) little chance to win his first major league start since last June.

The reigning NL Rookie of the Year, deGrom (5-4) posted his fifth double-digit strikeout game and first since Sept. 21 at Atlanta. He entered with a 1.61 ERA in 15 home games, and improved to 10-1 in his past 12 starts at Citi Field.

BRAVES 10, BREWERS 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Julio Teheran pitched seven strong innings and Atlanta took advantage of Milwaukee reliever Will Smith's sev-

enth-inning ejection for allegedly using pine tar. Play was stopped briefly with Atlanta leading 2-1 and the bases loaded with one out in the seventh when Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez successfully argued that Smith had pine tar on his right forearm. Crew chief Jim Joyce walked over to the mound, touched a shiny substance on Smith's arm and ejected the pitcher from the game. Gonzalez claimed that Smith was breaking the rules after the left-hander threw a pitch that bounced in front of the plate and hit pinch-hitter Pedro Ciriaco, the only batter he faced. Teheran (4-1) allowed two hits, one run, one walk and struck out eight in seven innings. Christian Bethancourt's RBI single chased Brewers starter Matt Garza (2-6) with one out in the seventh. After Smith hit Ciriaco, the next two pitchers — Neal Cotts

and Michael Blazek — combined to allow RBI singles to Jace Peterson and Freddie Freeman, Cameron Maybin's two-run single and Nick Markakis' RBI double. Freeman scored the last run of the inning when Jonny Gomes, batting for the second time in the seventh, reached on a throwing error by second baseman Hector Gomez.

CUBS 3, PADRES 0

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Kyle Hendricks threw a five-hitter for his first career complete

game and shutout, and Kris Bryant hit a two-run home run to help Chicago beat San Diego.

Hendricks (1-1) struck out seven with no walks. Only one baserunner advanced to second base.

Hendricks came in with six no-decisions in seven starts, including one against San Diego at Wrigley Field on April 18. Bryant homered to straightaway center field on the seventh pitch of the game by Odriamer Despaigne (2-3). □

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Montreal Alouettes sign openly gay defensive end Michael Sam

MONTREAL (AP)—Michael Sam, the first openly gay player drafted in the NFL, signed a two-year contract Friday with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League.

General manager Jim Popp considered Sam's sexuality a nonissue.

"Michael Sam is a very good football player, and that's the reason we signed him," Popp said. "He's an outstanding pass rusher."

Sam came out before last year's NFL draft. He was selected in the seventh round by the St. Louis Rams and cut in training camp. The Dallas Cowboys signed him to their practice squad but released him in October. Sam then made another unsuccessful attempt at an NFL job at this year's veterans combine.

"I cannot wait to put on the pads, get back on the field and work hard

each and every day with my teammates to bring a Grey Cup to the great fans here in Montreal," Sam said in a statement.

The 25-year-old defensive end will be introduced at a news conference Tuesday in Montreal and report to training camp the following day.

Sam starred at Missouri in college, earning SEC Defensive Player of the Year honors in 2013. After he came out, his NFL jersey was an instant best-seller and President Barack Obama publicly congratulated Sam and the Rams. CFL Commissioner Jeffrey Orridge did the same Friday.

"Congratulations to the Montreal Alouettes on the signing of Michael Sam," Orridge said in a statement. "Our players come to us from different places, different walks of life and ultimately they take different paths to get to our

fields. "Today is another indication of how open and progressive the CFL is — consistent with our rich and

his No. 94 Alouettes jersey on sale on their website for \$139.95.

The Alouettes had Sam on their negotiation list, and



In this March 22, 2015, file photo, Michael Sam runs through a drill during the NFL Super Regional Combine football workout in Tempe, Ariz.

Associated Press

storied history of great football tradition."

Aware of Sam's celebrity, the team immediately put

Popp said he was in contact with him all along. The 6-foot-2, 260-pound player finally accepted a con-

tract after completing his commitment to "Dancing With The Stars."

"Each time he was let go, there were discussions," Popp said. "He wanted to give it one last shot at the combine."

Popp said Sam was considered a "tweener" by NFL clubs, not quite the right body type to be a defensive end or an outside linebacker for that league. But he may fit perfectly in the CFL. Popp believes Sam can follow a path similar to that of Cam Wake, who was converted from linebacker to end when he joined the B.C. Lions in 2007. Wake was the CFL Defensive Player of the Year in each of his two seasons before signing with the Miami Dolphins, where he has had a successful NFL career.

"If he proves (NFL) people wrong it would be great for us, and I think he can do it," Popp said. □

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Warriors hold off Harden, Rockets 99-98 to take 2-0 lead



Houston Rockets guard James Harden, bottom, reacts after turning the ball over on the final play in Game 2 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals against the Golden State Warriors in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, May 21, 2015. The Warriors won 99-98.

Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Houston's James Harden lost control of the ball as time expired, allowing Golden State to hang on for a 99-98 win against the Rockets on Thursday and take a 2-0 lead in an NBA Western Conference finals series that is developing into a showdown between Harden and Stephen Curry. Curry had 33 points for the Warriors, who now have a strong grip on this series and sights set on the NBA Finals. Curry won the league MVP this year and Harden was the runner-up.

"Sometimes I want to crack open a beer and get a courtside seat. These two guys are the two best basketball players in the world," Warriors center Andrew Bogut said.

Harden rallied the Rockets from 17 points down in the second quarter and had a chance to finish off the comeback in the fourth. Instead, Klay Thompson and Curry trapped Harden, who lost the ball as time expired.

Harden fell to the floor and put his hands over his head

as the Warriors celebrated on the court, the sellout crowd roared, and confetti fell from the rafters.

"Kicking chairs," Harden said. "It's frustrating. It's frustrating to give the game away like that."

Harden had 38 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, and Dwight Howard overcame a sprained left knee that slowed him down to finish with 19 points and 17 rebounds for a Rockets team headed home in a major hole.

Game 3 is Saturday in Houston, which is facing a two-game deficit again. The Rockets overcame a 3-1 hole in the second round against the Los Angeles Clippers.

"We're not going to go anywhere," Rockets coach Kevin McHale said. "We're just going to keep standing here and swinging."

Curry made five 3-pointers to go with six assists and three rebounds. He got a big boost from his teammates — notably Bogut, Draymond Green and Thompson — to regroup after the Warriors lost the big

lead in the first half.

Curry connected on a 3-pointer, then found Bogut under the rim for a layup that sent the 7-foot Australian flexing his muscles and shouting to the crowd. Bogut missed the ensuing free throw, but the Warriors led 96-89 with 2:25 left.

Harden brought Houston back and the Rockets also forced the Warriors into an 8-second, backcourt violation before Harden found Howard for an alley-oop that sliced Golden State's lead to 99-98 with 33 seconds remaining.

After a timeout, Harrison Barnes missed a difficult reverse layup contested by Howard as the shot clock nearly expired.

Harden got the ball down the court, and McHale elected not to call timeout because his team had the Warriors scrambling and outmanned.

"I will take our best player heading downhill on a broken court any day of the week. That's where he feasts," McHale said.

Harden was defended by Thompson and Curry came

over near the 3-point line, where Harden lost the ball. Time expired amid the scramble.

"You knew he probably wasn't going to pass," Curry said.

"At that point, it's just don't let him get a shot off and try to be the hero."

The Warriors bench ran onto the court in celebration. Harden lay on the floor until teammates helped him up.

"I just wanted to stay big and force a contested shot," Thompson said. "Steph made a great read with that double team."

The play ended a fast-paced, back-and-forth contest — one that saw the Rockets rally the same way the Warriors did in Game 1, when they came back from a 16-point deficit in the second quarter.

"A little too drama-filled for us," Curry said. □



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SAT, SUN & HOL 3:35 | 6:20 | 9:05
MON-THURS 5:15 | 8:00
FRI 5:15 | 8:00 | 10:45
SAT 2:30 | 5:15 | 8:00 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 5:15 | 8:00

SAM ROCKWELL | ROSEMARIE DEWITT
POLTERGEIST
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:10 | 9:40
FRI 5:10 | 9:40 | 11:55
SAT 5:10 | 9:40 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 5:10 | 9:40
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 7:25
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:55 | 7:25

REESE WITHERSPOON | SOFIA VERGARA
HOT PURSUIT
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:10 | 9:20
FRI 5:05 | 7:10 | 9:20 | 11:30
SAT 3:00 | 5:05 | 7:10 | 9:20 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:05 | 7:10 | 9:20

TOM HARDY | CHARLIZE THERON
MAD MAX: FURY ROAD
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 9:30
FRI-SAT 4:20 | 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 4:20 | 9:30
2D VERSION
MON-FRI 6:55
SAT, SUN & HOL 1:50 | 6:55

ANNA KENDRICK | REBEL WILSON
PITCH PERFECT 2
PG-13
MON-THURS 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15
FRI 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:30
SAT 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15

HEATHER SOSSAMAN | MATTHEW BOHRER
UNFRIENDED
R
MON-THURS 9:10
FRI 9:10 | 11:15
SAT 9:10 | 11:15
SUN & HOL 9:10

KEVIN JAMES | RAINI RODRIGUEZ
PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:40 | 6:50
FRI 4:40 | 6:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:40 | 6:50

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NHL Roundup

Ducks beat Blackhawks 2-1 in Game 3 of Western finals

CHICAGO (AP) — Anaheim bounced back from a grueling home-ice loss in the previous game and won 2-1 at Chicago on Thursday to take the edge after three games of their NHL Western Conference finals series.

Ducks goaltender Frederik Andersen made 27 saves, helping kill off five power plays, and defenseman Simon Despres scored his first career playoff goal as Anaheim immediately put behind it the triple-overtime loss in Game 2.

"This was a character win," coach Bruce Boudreau said.

Ryan Kesler's two holding penalties contributed to more than nine power-play minutes for the Blackhawks, but the Ducks' penalty killers kept most of Chicago's opportunities to the outside and Andersen stood his ground during a couple of goalmouth scrums.

"We just sharpened up on the PK," Andersen said. "We weren't satisfied with what we did the last game. That was huge for this group coming off a tough loss where we gave up two goals on the PK. We wanted to be better today."

Patrick Maroon also scored for Anaheim while Patrick Kane scored his eighth playoff goal for Chicago, and Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford made 25 saves.

"It's frustrating that we lost, and

frustrating because we had some opportunities whether it was the power play or different chances and stuff that would get me back in the game," Kane said. "We knew it was going to be a tough

The teams were tied 1-1 when Despres drove a pass from Getzlaf past Crawford from the right wing with 55 seconds left in the second period. Despres came over in a trade with Pittsburgh in March.

team has been playing very well so far."

The Blackhawks outshot the Ducks 10-5 in the third, but couldn't get past Andersen.

"We have a great team that is willing to sacrifice themselves like that," said Andersen, who has allowed just 23 goals in the Ducks' 10-2 start to the postseason. "It's awesome to have a group of guys like that in front of you. That helps me out a lot."

While the Blackhawks struggled on the power play, the Ducks capitalized on their only chance with the man advantage. With Marian Hossa off for holding, Maroon tipped Hampus Lindholm's long slap shot past Crawford at 12:55 of the first for a 1-0 lead.

Chicago tied it 1-1 when Kane converted a spinning backhander in the final minute of the first. It was the first point of the series for Kane, who had seven goals and six assists in the first two rounds.

The Ducks made a big push at the start of the second, recording eight of the first nine shots on goal. The Blackhawks started to play better midway through the period, but Andersen had a nice stop on an open look for Jonathan Toews at 9:17, and then had an outstanding glove save on Brandon Saad with 1:24 to go. □



Anaheim Ducks celebrate the team's first score against the Chicago Blackhawks during the first period in Game 3 of the Western Conference finals of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs, Thursday, May 21, 2015, in Chicago. Clockwise from left are Francois Beauchemin, Patrick Maroon, Corey Perry and Ryan Getzlaf (15).

Associated Press

series. This is a good team. It's tough to lose, especially at home, but we've got to regroup."

Game 4 is Saturday in Chicago.

"It's been a good run so far," Despres said. "We haven't done anything yet. We want to get to the top. It's a team game and the

Contador crashes and loses lead to Aru on 13th Giro stage

JESOLO, Italy (AP) — Alberto Contador lost the overall lead of the Giro d'Italia to Fabio Aru after he was involved in a crash toward the end of Friday's 13th stage, which was won by Sacha Modolo.

Aru escaped the crash which took out a number of cyclists just outside the final three kilometers (two miles) to move 19 seconds ahead of Contador. Mikel Landa moved third, 1 minute, 14 seconds behind the Italian.

Had the incident happened a few meters further up the road, everyone would have been given the same time as crashes within a certain distance of the finish line are neutralized.

It is the first time Contador has lost the overall lead of a Grand Tour in his career.

Aru came in at the same time as Modolo, while Con-



tador — who was given a bicycle by a fellow rider in order to complete the stage — finished 46th, 40 seconds off the pace.

"We were really well-placed in the stage, but you could see the crash coming," Contador said. "Then I thought about getting a bike, any bike."

"I think I can make the time up."

Saturday could be the most important leg of the race,

an unusually long individual time trial at 59.4 kilometers (36.9 miles) from Treviso to Valdobbiadene.

"It's a great feeling to finally wear the pink jersey," Aru said. "It was really tough today, underneath the rain and on a flat course but full of roundabouts and other road traffic. I was always at the front, in a good position to try and avoid possible crashes, and when it happened I was safe."

"Now I'm just thinking about tomorrow. It will be a very important stage. I will give everything, but the Giro finishes next Sunday in Milan, not before."

Modolo won the bunch sprint at the end of the entirely flat 147-kilometer (91-mile) leg from Montecchio Maggiore to the seaside resort of Jesolo, near Venice. The Italian edged out Giacomo Nizzolo and Elia Viviani.

"Finally I won a stage," said Modolo, who has twice come close this race. "My great teammate and friend Max Richeze set up the perfect sprint for me and I crowned the team's work."

"At Fiuggi I was disappointed with myself. At Forli the breakaway got there and so I couldn't be in the sprint. It was destiny that I won my home stage. I have many friends who have come to

see me from San Vendemiano, where I'm from. It's an unforgettable win."

Richie Porte's string of bad luck continued and his faint hopes of winning the Giro are all but over after he was also involved in the crash and lost more time, finishing over two minutes down on the leaders and falling more than five minutes behind Aru.

Contador, who dislocated his shoulder in another crash on the sixth stage, is attempting to become the first rider since Marco Pantani in 1998 to win the Giro and Tour de France in the same year.

A two-time Tour champion, Contador won the Giro in 2008 and was also triumphant in Milan in 2011 but was stripped of that title for testing positive in the 2010 Tour.

The 98th Giro ends on May 31 in Milan. □



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Aviation agency unveils messaging system to reduce delays

By DAVID PORTER

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) -- A system that replaces verbal communication between pilots and air traffic controllers with computerized messages was unveiled Thursday by federal aviation officials, who said the system will reduce delays during weather events and cut down on errors that occur during routine voice transmissions.

The Federal Aviation Administration demonstrated the Data Communications system, called Data Comm, at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport. The system has been used on a trial basis since 2013 at the Newark and Memphis, Tennessee, airports.

The system is used to communicate alternate routes for planes awaiting takeoff



An air traffic controller labors in the tower at Newark Liberty International Airport, Thursday, May 21, 2015, in Newark, N.J.

that are heading toward bad weather. Currently, the information is given by voice and can take several

minutes as the pilot copies it down and reads it back to the controller, then enters it into the plane's com-

puter system.

Using Data Comm, the controller transmits the information with a few clicks of a mouse. The information also is sent simultaneously to the airline's dispatcher, whom a pilot often has to consult before taking an alternate route that will expend more fuel. FAA Administrator Michael Huerta compared the old system to getting directions over the phone from a friend, copying them down and checking them to make sure they're correct.

"With Data Communications, you don't have to call a friend for directions," he said. "His address is pre-programmed into your car's GPS system and all you have to do is press 'go.'"

Data Comm is one facet of the FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen, a long-term effort to transition from an air traffic control system based on World War II-era radar technology to one based on satellite technol-

ogy.

NextGen will allow planes to safely fly closer together using GPS navigation, increasing the number of aircraft that can land and take off at airports and allow planes to save time and fuel by flying more direct routes.

The FAA hopes to have Data Comm implemented at 56 airports by the end of next year, said Gregg Anderson, the FAA's air traffic operations leader for the Data Comm project.

Officials said the new system also can reduce errors that are inherent in back-and-forth verbal communications,

particularly when using the verbiage employed in the industry - in a demonstration Thursday, one of the routes given to a pilot with the acronym TOUGH became "Tango-Oscar-Uniform-Gulf-Hotel."

"This is transformational," said Ray Adams, head of the air traffic controllers union at Newark. "This will save so much time."

Paul Cassel, senior vice president of flight operations for FedEx, said he has seen delays reduced by several minutes since the company began using the system at its hub in Memphis.

United Airlines, which operates about 380 flights per day through Newark, hopes to have a little more than half its fleet equipped to use Data Comm in the next three years, said Jim Compton, United's chief revenue officer.

Roughly 800 planes are using Data Comm, Anderson said. The agency estimates that the benefits of the new system will be felt on a nationwide scale when that number reaches 1,900, or about 20 percent of the planes eligible to use it. □

Adult dating site investigating possible breach of user data

By BRANDON BAILEY
AP Technology Writer

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) -- The operator of a popular adult dating website said Friday it's investigating a potential security breach, following reports that hackers stole names, email addresses and information about the sexual preferences of up to 4 million members.

Britain's Channel 4 news outlet reported that hackers posted some of the information on an obscure website after stealing account data from the operator of AdultFriendFinder.com, which claims 64 million members worldwide use its service to "hook up, find sex or meet someone hot now."

FriendFinder Networks, the

Silicon Valley company that operates the service, said in a statement that it hired a prominent cybersecurity firm to investigate and is telling members to update their user names and passwords.

It said it is also temporarily blocking attempts to search for user profiles by "any users we believe were affected by the security issue."

Tech blogger Bev Robb reported earlier that it was possible to identify some users and glean potentially embarrassing information based on apparently stolen data that was posted on a website frequented by other hackers.

Without confirming any

breach, FriendFinder Networks said it had no information that any users' financial information was leaked. But the statement, posted on its corporate website, added that, "until the investigation is completed, it will be difficult to confirm the full scope of the incident."

FriendFinder Networks operates a number of online sites and dating services aimed at different audiences, including Amigos.com, BigChurch.com and SeniorFriendFinder.com, although there has been no indication that information has leaked from its other sites. The company also says it licenses the Penthouse brand and publishes magazines. □

Dutch government to sell off nationalized ABN Amro bank

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch government said Friday it will sell off ABN Amro bank in phases beginning later this year, seven years after the state took it over to prevent its collapse during the global financial crisis.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the financial sector is now stable enough, there is sufficient interest in the

market and ABN Amro is ready for a phased sale.

The decision had been expected earlier this year but was delayed amid uproar over members of the bank's board awarding themselves a 100,000 euro (\$110,000) pay rise to compensate for losing their right to bonuses when the bank was nationalized in 2008.

The bank scrapped the pay rise at the end of

March, clearing the way for the re-privatization.

Gerrit Zalm, the former Dutch finance minister who is now chairman of ABN Amro's managing board, welcomed the announcement, calling the sale, "a logical next step in the bank's development."

ABN Amro announced this month that its underlying net profit rose 44 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier to 543 million euro-

ros, its best quarter in four years.

The government said the sale via initial public offering could happen from the fourth quarter. The first tranche sold will be between 20 and 30 percent of the bank.

The Dutch state spent 21.7 billion euros to save the bank when it was nationalized in 2008 together with the Dutch operations of one of its would-be acquir-

ers, Belgium's now defunct Fortis NV, in a takeover bid that went horribly wrong.

The bank is now estimated to be worth 15 billion euros (\$16.5 billion) following an aggressive restructuring that saw it cut jobs and sell off foreign units.

Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem said the government will build protective measures into the sale to prevent potential hostile takeovers. □

Wall Street dips slightly on lower oil, mixed earnings news

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market capped a quiet week of trading on a down note.

Major indexes fell from the start on Friday as oil drillers and other energy-related companies followed oil prices lower. Stocks spent much of the rest of the day drifting between losses and gains as investors considered a mixed bag corporate earnings and a slight increase in inflation.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed down 4.76 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,126.06. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 53.72 points, or 0.3 percent, to 18,232.02. The Nasdaq composite edged down 1.43 points to 5,089.36.

Trading was light ahead of the Memorial Day weekend in the U.S. Just 2.5 billion shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange, three-quarters of the normal level.

Nine of the 10 industry sectors of the S&P 500 were

lower, led by a 0.8 percent drop in telecommunications stocks.

Among stocks making big gains, Deere & Co. rose \$3.89, or 4.3 percent, to \$93.35 after the equipment maker beat analysts' estimates for its latest quarterly earnings. The company also raised its profit forecast for the year. Campbell Soup rose 98 cents, or 2 percent, to \$47.91 after reporting better-than-expected results, too.

In economic news, the Labor Department reported that inflation rose 0.1 percent in April, its third straight increase. The report also noted that core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, climbed 0.3 percent, the biggest one-month increase in more than two years.

The numbers suggest that an improving economy could be setting the stage for the Federal Reserve to raise its benchmark short-term interest rate. The central market has

held the rate near zero for more than six years.

"We don't think inflation is really a problem, but the uptick is a cover for the

proves. But she cautioned that the economy is still facing challenges, including disappointing wage growth and too many

"It continues to be the rally that no one respects," said JJ Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade. "Despite headwinds, it continues to plug along."

Among stocks making moves Friday, Gap Inc. fell 55 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$38.01 on news late Thursday that first-quarter earnings plunged 8 percent as it tries to turn around its Banana Republic and Gap chains. The company also cited a surge in the value of the dollar, which makes sales abroad worth less when translated back to the U.S. currency.

Overseas, the Shanghai Composite Index jumped 2.8 percent to close at its highest level since 2008. Investors are betting that the economic stimulus that has powered the rally will continue after several poor indicators, including a disappointing manufacturing index on Thursday. Markets in Europe were mixed. Germany's DAX slipped 0.4 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.3 percent. □



Trader George Baskinger, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Major indexes fell from the start on Friday as oil drillers and other energy-related companies followed oil prices lower. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Fed to do what it wants to do anyway: Get off zero rates," said Jim McDonald, chief investment strategist at Northern Trust. Later in the day, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said in a speech that she expected the Fed to begin raising rates later this year if the job market im-

people working part-time. Despite the drop for the day, the S&P 500 still closed up for the week, its third weekly gain in a row. The index has closed at record highs recently, though the gains have been tiny as investors fret over unimpressive earnings and an uncertain global economy.

Deere's equipment sales offset agricultural slowdown

MOLINE, Ill. (AP) — Solid sales of its construction equipment offset a global agricultural slowdown for Deere, the company said Friday. It also raised its outlook for the year and its shares rose nearly 4 percent Friday.

Deere's most profitable business is making and selling its green tractors and other farming

equipment, but with less demand for large farm equipment, Deere is relying more on its backhoes, excavators and other construction equipment to grow sales. A surge in home construction in the U.S. is likely helping. In April, builders broke ground on homes at the fastest pace in more than seven years, according to the Com-

merce Department. Deere said sales of farming equipment fell 25 percent from a year ago to \$5.77 billion in the second quarter, due to lower shipment of farm machines and the effects of the stronger U.S. dollar. For the full year, Deere expects farming equipment sales to fall 24 percent from the year before. Meanwhile,

sales of construction and forestry equipment rose 2 percent to \$1.63 billion and it expects them to also rise about 2 percent for the year. Deere's financing unit, which gives loans to customers to buy equipment, also improved, with revenue rising 14 percent to \$653 million.

The company said its second-quarter earnings fell

30 percent to \$690.5 million, compared with \$981 million last year, but it was still better than Wall Street had expected.

The Moline, Illinois, company posted net income of \$2.03 per share, which easily beat the per-share earnings of \$1.57 that analysts were looking for, according to a survey by Zacks Investment Research. □

Heads of Deutsche Bank try to assuage its shareholders

JACK EWING

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Top executives of Deutsche Bank tried to reassure increasingly restive shareholders this week that they were making progress on cutting costs, delivering more consistent profits and avoiding legal problems that have cost Germany's largest bank billions of euros in fines and settlements.

The bank, one of the last European lenders with a large presence on Wall Street, held its annual shareholders' meeting in Frankfurt amid calls from some investors for the co-chief executives, Anshu Jain and Jurgen Fitschen, to step down.

Instead, late Wednesday, the bank's supervisory board gave Jain more power. He will take direct responsibility for a reorganization plan, announced last month, aimed at simplifying the bank, saving 3.5 billion euros, or about \$3.9 billion, annually and producing a profit equal to at least 10 percent of the capital invested.

Previously, Stefan Krause, the chief financial officer, had direct oversight of the reorganization. As part of the changes, Krause will take some responsibilities from Jain, including oversight of a unit that provides banking services to large international corporations. Addressing shareholders, Jain acknowledged that it had taken longer than expected to overcome problems that have led to costly penalties. Last month, the bank agreed to pay \$2.5 billion to U.S. and British authorities to settle accusations that some employees had conspired to rig benchmark interest rates.

"We have faced many challenges," Jain said in a speech to shareholders. "We have successfully addressed some. We have a clear strategy for dealing with others. We are convinced we are on the right path." Discontent among Deutsche Bank sharehold-

ers has become increasingly vocal after years of management turmoil, legal problems and mediocre gains by the bank's shares.

Deutsche Bank shares have risen less than 7 percent since Jain and Fitschen took office three years ago. The shares were little changed in trading in Frankfurt on Thursday.

Hans-Christoph Hirt, a director at Hermes EOS, which represents large investors, said Wednesday that the firm would cast a vote of no confidence at the shareholders' meeting. "We urge the bank's supervisory board to review the composition of the management board," Hirt said in a statement.

He said that the poor performance of Deutsche Bank shares showed that the lender's strategy had failed. Hirt also said that management lapses had unnecessarily increased the cost of a settlement with U.S. and British authorities last month on charges that Deutsche Bank traders conspired to manipulate interest rates.

The \$2.5 billion fine, more than other banks paid in the same case, reflected what the authorities said was foot-dragging by Deutsche Bank in providing information to investigators.

"The levels of the fines reflect both the severity of the misconduct of Deutsche's employees but also the bank's slow response to the investigations and inadequate cooperation," Hirt said. "The management board bears ultimate responsibility for the apparent defects and delays in responding to the investigations and thus the increased fines."

Partly because of the fine, Deutsche Bank's profit in the first three months of the year sank by about half, to 559 million euros from 1.1 billion euros a year earlier. Legal costs more than offset a 24 percent increase in quarterly revenue, to 10.4 billion euros. □

Profit and sales slump at Hewlett-Packard

BRIAN X. CHEN

© 2015 New York Times

Hewlett-Packard, the computer and printer giant, reported continued declines in profit and sales this week as it prepared to split into two companies later this year.

HP, based in Palo Alto,

happen at the end of October.

HP said the split remained on track and would initially incur operations costs of \$400 million to \$450 million. The company also said it had appointed several new leaders for both companies. Cathie Lesjak, the

and reduce costs.

The two independent companies will each be large enough to enter the Fortune 500 and may be better able to react quickly to changing markets than within a large organization. Yet investors question whether the split will slow



The Hewlett Packard Co. logo is displayed at headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif. Hewlett-Packard, the computer and printer giant, reported continued declines in profit and sales this week as it prepared to split into two companies later this year.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

California, said Thursday that net income in the fiscal second quarter fell 21 percent to \$1 billion, or 55 cents a share, from the same quarter a year earlier. Revenue fell 7 percent to \$25.5 billion.

Sales fell short of Wall Street analysts' revenue expectations of \$25.63 billion for the quarter, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters. Excluding some items, the company reported a profit of 87 cents a share, beating analyst estimates on that same basis of 86 cents. "While we have some challenges, I'm pleased with where we ended the quarter," said Meg Whitman, chief executive of HP, on the company's earnings call. The results give investors a progress report on Whitman's plan to split HP into two companies: One will focus on enterprise-computing technologies like servers, and the other will sell products like personal computers and printers. The separation is set to

chief financial officer, will become chief financial officer of HP Inc.; Chris Hsu will become head of operations for HP's enterprise division; and Alan May will join HP's enterprise division as head of human resources.

The split stemmed from a shifting technology landscape in which Whitman struggled to find a way to accelerate HP's growth. While HP is one of the world's largest technology companies - making personal computers, computer servers, printers, data storage products and networking gear - many of those businesses have been battered over the last several years as the company contended with the move to mobile and cloud computing.

"Today I'm more convinced than ever this was the right thing to do," Whitman said in the call, referring to the split. She added that dividing the company would allow each entity to discover new opportunities

HP's product creation and sales, as assets and roles are allocated, and whether competitors will exploit customer confusion to seize market share.

Since announcing the plan to split, HP has reported declining profit. In March, the company sharply lowered its outlook for annual earnings. In anticipation of the separation, HP is shedding some assets. The company said Thursday it sold a 51 percent stake in its Chinese network business to Tsinghua University for about \$2.3 billion. The move lets HP continue to sell equipment to businesses in China, which face government restrictions on use of foreign technologies.

Bill Kreher, an analyst at Edward Jones, said HP's earnings illustrated the company continued to perform while revenue was getting hurt by economic conditions. He said he was skeptical that HP would turn things around as two companies instead of one. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2		8						5				
	9		6	5	4				1			
7						1				9		
4							1				4	
9								4				
5								7				
8								3				
	2	1	9		6							
6				4					7			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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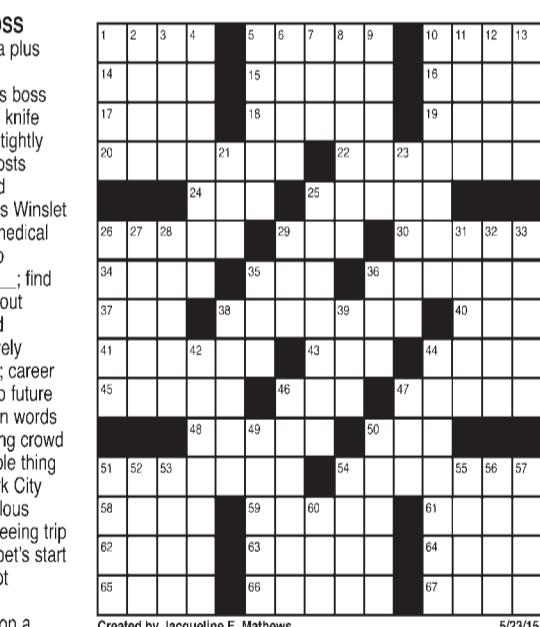
5/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	1	9	6	8	5	4	7	2				
4	6	5	3	2	7	9	8	1				
8	2	7	4	9	1	3	6	5				
9	3	2	8	1	4	7	5	6				
1	4	6	5	7	2	8	9	3				
5	7	8	9	6	3	1	2	4				
6	9	3	1	5	8	2	4	7				
2	8	1	7	4	6	5	3	9				
7	5	4	2	3	9	6	1	8				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5/23



ACROSS

1 Uses a plus sign
5 Biden's boss
10 Prison knife
14 Close tightly
15 Taxi costs
16 Ripped
17 Actress Winslet
18 Give medical care to
19 Read ___; find out about
20 Smiled derisively
22 ___ job; career with no future
24 Play on words
25 Teeming crowd
26 Valuable thing
29 ___ York City
30 Ridiculous
34 Sightseeing trip
35 Alphabet's start
36 Corrupt
37 Wrath
38 Items on a relish tray
40 Hairy as an ___
41 Account book
43 Boy
44 Grand ___; four-run homer
45 "Don't ___ on me"; words on an old U.S. flag
46 Pelosi's title: abbr.
47 Actress Field
48 Bundles of hay
50 Inexpensive gift for a new baby
51 Unimportant matters
54 Fruit-flavored icy desserts
58 Bring on board
59 Pains
61 Farmland unit
62 Antlered critters
63 Destroys
64 You, biblically
65 Tree house?
66 Poor
67 Garden tools
68 ___ for; requests

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/23/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

GLUM	STRAW	ICKY										
LONE	PEACE	NONE										
APIN	REPETITION											
DEF	RANT	RAFTS										
OBEYS	DOC											
HARASS	CANTER											
ADMIT	REEFS	MOM										
SLIT	DEALT	MAYA										
HIT	PEARL	RENAL										
BYROAD	MUSCLE											
AND	SUSHI											
APHID	FIRE	PAN										
CLASSIFIED	PAL											
HERE	TINGE	ATMS										
EATS	SNEER	TEST										

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5/23/15

39 Drink like Fido
42 Kaffeeklatsch
44 Day of worship
46 Save from danger
47 Gentleman
49 Memorize
50 Domineering
51 "That was ___; this is now"
52 Irritate
53 Annoys
54 Put in the mail
55 Resound
56 Aspen or ash
57 Observes
58 Ride a bike
59 Blushing

Hamburglar, Colonel Sanders are returning to sell fast food

SYDNEY EMBER

© 2015 New York Times

At McDonald's headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a room employees call "the pulse." It contains a large television monitor and several computer screens. And this month, it was where the fast-food company's marketing team and agency partners waited for the Hamburglar.

The classic McDonaldland character had last appeared in a commercial in 2002, but the beef-obsessed bandit was reintroduced on May 6 as part of a new campaign to sell sirloin burgers. Those gathered in "the pulse" that day were there to monitor social media for reaction. It came almost immediately - and it was decidedly mixed. Some on Twitter called the new Hamburglar ads awkward, weird and even creepy. A debate raged after the videos became available online over whether the new Hamburglar was attractive. For McDonald's, though, the conversation was the point. "We knew the Hamburglar would obviously create some buzz," said Joel Yashinsky, vice president for U.S. marketing at McDonald's. "When we saw it trending on Twitter, we knew we had connected in a way that helped the relevance of the brand." These are tough times for traditional fast-food restaurants, where sales have faltered in the face of increased competition from fast-casual chains that promise higher-quality ingredients and healthier dining options. So, to set themselves apart in a crowded industry, some fast-food chains are betting on nostalgia. After McDonald's resurrected the Hamburglar, the fried chicken chain KFC followed suit. It announced that it was bringing back Colonel Sanders, a white-haired, white-suited character based on the company's founder, Colonel Harland Sanders. These back-to-the-future

marketing moves come after some years of traditional fast-food companies straying from their core identities. McDonald's, for instance, recently said it would test kale in a breakfast bowl in some of its Southern California restaurants.

"They want to be a part of American culture but that culture has changed," Dean Crutchfield, an independent brand consultant, said about big fast-food companies. "In a way, they've lost their roots. They need to re-establish themselves."

By bringing back recognizable characters, McDonald's and KFC may be trying to remind consumers of a simpler time, Crutchfield added. The companies are also betting that retro characters will appeal to the highly coveted millennial generation that is turning away from traditional fast food in droves. Yashinsky of McDonald's said that the campaign for sirloin burgers - which features the Hamburglar - was geared toward "the social audience that is on the social sites," or 18- to 35-year-olds.

Similarly, Kevin Hochman, the chief marketing officer for KFC U.S., said bringing back Colonel Sanders was intended to "attract the younger customer." Hochman said the Colonel's focus was on quality ingredients, his entrepreneurial spirit and his showmanship. "He's literally like the ultimate millennial startup," he said. KFC has brought on the comedian Darrell Hammond, best known for his impersonations of personalities like Bill Clinton and Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live," to play Colonel Sanders in a series of television commercials that will begin Monday. KFC is also planning to redesign its restaurants. In a video clip on KFC's website, Colonel Sanders - who last appeared in a television commercial about 20 years ago - ruminates on how the world is different today. □

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Oldest known stone tools found in Kenya; makers not known

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — By taking a wrong turn in a dry riverbed in Kenya, scientists discovered a trove of stone tools far older than any ever found before. Nobody knows who made them — or why.

At 3.3 million years old, they push back the record of stone tools by about 700,000 years. More significantly, they are half-a-million years older than any known trace of our own branch of the evolutionary tree.

Scientists have long thought that sharp-edged stone tools were made only by members of our branch, whose members are designated "Homo," like our own species, *Homo sapiens*. That idea has been questioned, and the new finding is a big boost to the argument that tool-making may have begun with smaller-brained fore-runners instead.

The discovery was reported by Sonia Harmand and Jason Lewis of Stony Brook University in New York and

co-authors in a paper released Wednesday by the journal *Nature*. The find drew rave reviews from experts unconnected to the work.

"It really absolutely moves the beginnings of human

a new window onto the human past, illuminating the work of the first tool-makers and raising as many questions as they have answered," said Eric Delson of Lehman College in New York.



This undated photo made available in May 2015 by the Mission Prehistorique au Kenya - West Turkana Archaeological Project shows the excavation of a stone tool found in the West Turkana area of Kenya.

Associated Press

technology back into a much more distant past, and a much different kind of ancestor than we've been thinking of," said anthropology professor Alison Brooks of George Washington University, who has examined some of the tools. The authors have "opened

And Frank Brown of the University of Utah, an expert in determining the age of fossils who has known about the discovery for a couple years and visited the site, said he is "still kind of staggered by it."

The *Nature* paper describes 149 stones and

stone flakes found west of Lake Turkana in a remote area of northern Kenya. Most objects are "cores," which are stones that have been struck to break off sharp-edged flakes. Other stones appear to have been used as hammers or anvils.

Africa is where our own species first appeared, and it has long been a hotbed for finding fossils of our forerunners. The Kenyan site was discovered one day in July 2011, when Harmand, Lewis and a crew set out to survey one area and by accident ended up in another one. There were gullies and hillsides that seemed promising, so they looked around, Lewis recalled in a telephone interview.

Just before tea time, a team member spotted a stone tool on the ground. More quickly appeared. Excavations followed.

As stone tools go, the artifacts are remarkably big. On average, the cores stretch about 6 inches (15 centimeters) long and wide and weigh nearly 7

pounds (over 3 kilograms), for example, while the flakes are up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) long.

Compared to the next-oldest-known tool artifacts, "these things are enormous," which adds to the mystery of what they were used for, said David Braun, a tool expert at George Washington.

Generally, ancient human relatives are thought to have used stone tools for hammering, such as for cracking nuts, and for their sharp edges, useful for butchering and skinning animal carcasses as well as cutting up tough plant material.

Experts said they were stumped about the purpose of the Kenyan tools. Harmand said she thinks the overall purpose was to make sharp-edged flakes for cutting, but exactly how they were used is not known. Researchers are examining them with a microscope to look for clues. Then there's the question of who made them. "The jury is out on that," Lewis said. □





TLC pulls Duggar family series amid misconduct reports

By ALLEN REED
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -- TLC pulled the reality series "19 Kids and Counting" from its schedule on Friday, a move that follows reports of sexual misconduct allegations against one of the stars, Josh Duggar, stemming from when he was a juvenile.

In a statement, the channel said it was "deeply saddened and troubled by this heartbreaking situation, and our thoughts and prayers are with the family and victims at this difficult time." The statement didn't elaborate.

Also Friday, Arkansas police said they had destroyed a record outlining a nearly decade-old investigation into Duggar, a day after the 27-year-old resigned his role with a prominent conservative Christian group amid reports about the allegations.

The Northwest Arkansas

Democrat-Gazette, which obtained the offense report before its destruction, reports Duggar was accused of fondling five girls in 2002 and 2003. Duggar issued an apology Thursday on Facebook for unspecified bad behavior as a youth and resigned his role as executive director for FRC Action, the tax-exempt legislative action arm of the Washington-based Family Research Council.

"I would do anything to go back to those teen years and take different actions," Duggar wrote. "In my life today, I am so very thankful for God's grace, mercy and redemption."

Duggar appears on the TLC reality show "19 Kids and Counting," which stars his family. He is the oldest of Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar's 19 children.

TLC didn't address whether its popular show would return. The program had

been set to air in reruns after wrapping its most recent season.

Springdale Police began investigating Duggar in 2006 when officers were alerted to a letter contain-

Weekly, states that a member of Harpo Studios, the producer of Oprah Winfrey's then show, received an email containing the allegations before the family was set to appear in 2006.

Springdale Police spokesman Scott Lewis said Judge Stacey Zimmerman ordered the 2006 offense report destroyed Thursday. Zimmerman didn't return a request for comment on Friday.

"The judge ordered us yesterday to expunge that record," Lewis said, adding that similar records are typically kept indefinitely. "As far as the Springdale Police Department is concerned this report doesn't exist." Neither Duggar nor his father, a former state representative, returned calls seeking comment Friday. Several Arkansas Republicans have rallied behind the Duggar family, which is still engaged in state politics. Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar attended the kickoff event earlier this month for Republican presidential nominee Mike Huckabee, who supported the family in a Facebook post on Friday. □



In this Aug. 29, 2014, file photo, Josh Duggar, executive director of FRC Action, speaks in favor of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act at the Arkansas state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark.

Associated Press

ing the allegations that was found in a book lent by a family friend to someone else.

The report, originally published by tabloid *In Touch*

The tipster warned producers against allowing the Duggars on the show and studio staff members faxed a copy of the email to Arkansas State Police.

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and

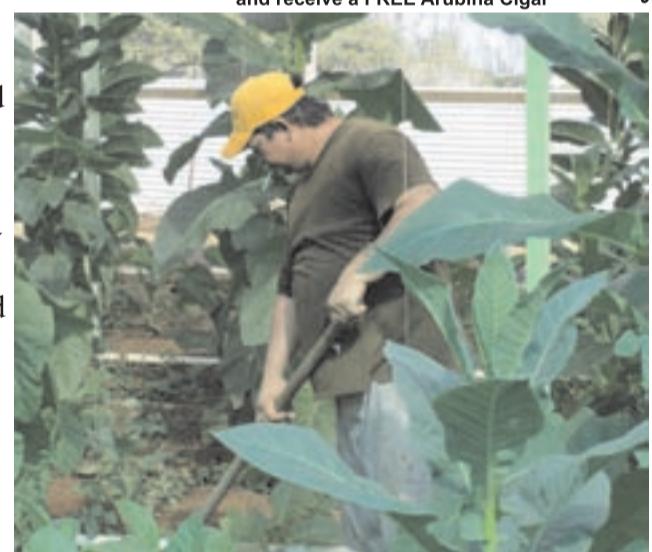
Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi's dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi



Rediscovering Walt Disney's optimistic in 'Tomorrowland'

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

For writer Damon Lindelof, the genesis of the escapist adventure "Tomorrowland" was one very simple question: What happened to our jet packs?

When he, director Brad Bird and George Clooney were children (albeit at slightly different times), the future seemed like something great. To them, it was full of wonder around the gadgets and inventions that populated their entertainment and sparked their developing imaginations. Clooney, who was born in 1961, just as the Space Race was picking up, remembers its influence on his youth.

"My whole childhood was eating space food sticks and drinking Tang," he said in a recent interview with Bird and Lindelof.

By the time Clooney was 8-years-old, a man had already walked on the moon.

Even amid the political and social turmoil of the time, it was hard for them not to look at everything with such rose-colored glasses — especially with Walt Disney as a consistent and persuasive advocate for optimistic futurism. Disney, in his television series "Disneyland," would present scientific ideas to his young viewers and speculate on what the future might hold.

"We were fairly positive that at some point in our lifetime, the world was going to end in a nuclear holocaust. That was a real possibility," said Clooney. "It was as bad as anything you see today, but we all thought something was going to work out."

Bird, born in 1957, said that Disney's influence on that can-do attitude of the era was undeniable.

"He was this hub of imagination. Every time that he talked about the future, it was fascinating and it was fun and it was bright and it was like all these great things are going to happen," said Bird.

And then, of course, there

Bird, the best version of Tomorrowland was the one that opened six months after Disney's 1966 death and represented his complete vision.

Even Clooney had an early transformative experience at the park.

"I was 6 when I went there and it was fascinating. Tomorrowland was going to be the future. I thought

really noticed it."

That's where the Disney movie "Tomorrowland" kicks off. In a story developed by Lindelof, Bird and longtime Entertainment Weekly writer Jeff Jensen, a boy genius turned pessimistic adult grump (Clooney) gets entangled with a driven and bright dreamer, Casey (Britt Robertson), who endeavors to

response to modern cynicism, often most evident on social media. When "Tomorrowland" was under development, for example, it used the code name "1952."

During that same time, Disney acquired Lucasfilm, Lindelof said, and "people were 'like 1952 and 5+2=7, so you guys are doing 'Star Wars VII'" and Brad had to tweet 'we are not doing 'Star Wars'.'"

"That turns into 'Bird says he'll never do Star Wars!'" added Bird. "You can be incredibly well-intentioned in that space and just want to put out positivity and it will turn on you."

By embracing an original idea with "Tomorrowland," Bird also believes the film is a response to the standardization of summer movies — all superheroes and sequels. It's a brave thing to go against the mold, especially this earnestly.

"Not everything is based on a comic book," said Bird. "People say that they want to see something original and there is a way to do that," he added, even though "Tomorrowland" is technically based on an area in a theme park.

Doing that meant fully committing to the spirit of optimism, even if it is a bit retro, simplistic and possibly naive. But that's their point: To inspire a new generation of unjaded innovators.

"We're not afraid to make a movie that could be perceived by some as corny or hopeful or unrealistic," said Bird. "You have to have the dreamer in order to do the dream."

Perhaps then Lindelof will get his jet pack. □



In this Friday, May 8, 2015 photo, Brad Bird, from left, George Clooney and Damon Lindelof pose for a portrait during press day for "Tomorrowland" at The Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. The movie opens in U.S. theaters on May 22, 2015.

Associated Press

was Tomorrowland itself. The area of Disneyland opened in 1955 and imagined what 1986 might look like. Disney called it a "step into the future, with predictions of constructed things to come." (The Tomorrowland section of Disneyland isn't physically portrayed in "Tomorrowland" the movie. Rather, it exists more as an abstraction and the film's undeniable inspiration.)

From the Moonliner's "trip to the moon" to the Carousel of Progress, Tomorrowland shaped the minds of generations of kids. For

that's what it actually was going to be," said Clooney.

But something happened in between, and our collective attitude about what's to come has soured for many.

"That idea of you being personally responsible for your own future — where that future is potentially fun — has started to slip away," said Lindelof, who was born in 1973.

Bird added: "We've been gradually prepared for the idea that the future is going to stink. It's happened so slowly that we haven't

go to "Tomorrowland" and fix what's been lost: Optimism.

Part of that involved Clooney taking a back seat to the young female protagonist in the film.

"In my 30s, I got to punch the guy and fall on the ground and walk away and there are explosions behind me as I'm walking toward the camera. Now I'm the guy who gets socked in the face, who falls on the ground and who whines a lot," said Clooney.

In many ways, "Tomorrowland," opening Friday, is a

Here come the judges as 'AGT' returns for its 10th season

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "They keep telling people it's the 10th anniversary. But it's the fourth season, as far as I'm concerned," says Howard Stern, who joined "America's Got Talent" as a judge in 2012.

That's what you'd expect Howard to say.

But quickly he adds that with "AGT" launching what everyone but Stern would consider its 10th season (Tuesday at 8 p.m. EDT on NBC), he's having a ball with fellow judges Howie Mandel, Heidi Klum and

Mel B. "I may be the most important judge in the history of the world, but secretly I'll tell you, I'm glad they're there," he confides during a recent interview. Everyone remembers the uproar when Stern was brought aboard this family-friendly talent competition:

Wasn't he a legendary "shock jock," a bad-boy superstar on SiriusXM Radio who would say anything to get a reaction?

Maybe, but Stern, now 61, thought he would make an ideal judge, that his long show-biz career (wasn't he the King of All Media?)

would serve him well in evaluating each act. More to the point: He was already a big "AGT" fan.

"It helps when it isn't just a paycheck for a judge, when they were a fan of the show even before they were getting paid to be on it," □

Errors and Lies



PAUL KRUGMAN

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Surprise! It turns out that there's something to be said for having the brother of a failed president make his own run for the White House. Thanks to Jeb Bush, we may finally have the frank discussion of the Iraq invasion we should have had a decade ago. But many influential people - not just Bush - would prefer that we not have that discussion. There's a palpable sense right now of the political and media elite trying to draw a line under the subject. Yes, the narrative goes, we now know that invading Iraq was a terrible mistake, and it's about time that everyone admits it. Now let's move on.

Well, let's not - because that's a false narrative, and everyone who was involved in the debate over the war knows that it's false. The Iraq War wasn't an innocent mistake, a venture undertaken on the basis of intelligence that turned out to be wrong. America invaded Iraq because the Bush administration wanted a war. The public justifications for the invasion were nothing but pretexts, and falsified pretexts at that. We were, in a fundamental sense, lied into war.

The fraudulence of the case for war was actually obvious even at the time: The ever-shifting arguments for an unchanging goal were a dead giveaway. So were the word games - the talk about WMD that conflated chemical weapons (which many people did think Saddam had) with nukes, the constant insinuations that Iraq was somehow behind 9/11.

And at this point we have plenty of evidence to confirm everything the war's opponents were saying. We now know, for example, that on 9/11 itself - literally before the dust had settled - Donald Rumsfeld, the secretary of defense, was already plotting war against a regime that had nothing to do with the terrorist attack. "Judge whether good enough [to] hit S.H. (Saddam Hussein) ...sweep it all up things related and not"; so read notes taken by Rumsfeld's aide.

This was, in short, a war the White House wanted, and all of the supposed mistakes that, as Jeb puts it, "were made" by someone unnamed actually flowed from this underlying desire. Did the intelligence agencies wrongfully conclude that Iraq had chemi-

cal weapons and a nuclear program? That's because they were under intense pressure to justify the war. Did prewar assessments vastly underestimate the difficulty and cost of occupation? That's because the war party didn't want to hear anything that might raise doubts about the rush to invade. Indeed, the Army's chief of staff was effectively fired for questioning claims that the occupation phase would be cheap and easy.

Why did they want a war? That's a harder question to answer. Some of the warmongers believed that deploying shock and awe in Iraq would enhance American power and influence around the world. Some saw Iraq as a sort of pilot project, preparation for a series of regime changes. And it's hard to avoid the suspicion that there was a strong element of wagging the dog, of using military triumph to strengthen the Republican brand at home.

Whatever the precise motives, the result was a very dark chapter in American history. Once again: We were lied into war. Now, you can understand why many political and media figures would prefer not to talk about any of this. Some of them, I suppose, may have been duped: may have fallen for the obvious lies, which doesn't say much about their judgment. More, I suspect, were complicit: They realized that the official case for war was a pretext, but had their own reasons for wanting a war, or, alternatively, allowed themselves to be intimidated into going along. For there was a definite climate of fear among politicians and pundits in 2002 and 2003, one in which criticizing the push for war looked very much like a career killer.

On top of these personal motives, our news media in general have a hard time coping with policy dishonesty. Reporters are reluctant to call politicians on their lies, even when these involve mundane issues like budget numbers, for fear of seeming partisan. In fact, the bigger the lie, the clearer it is that major political figures are engaged in outright fraud, the more hesitant the reporting. And it doesn't get much bigger - indeed, more or less criminal - than lying America into war.

But truth matters, and not just because those who refuse to learn from history are doomed in some general sense to repeat it. The campaign of lies that took us into Iraq was recent enough that it's still important to hold the guilty individuals accountable. Never mind Jeb Bush's verbal stumbles. Think, instead, about his foreign-policy team, led by people who were directly involved in concocting a false case for war. So let's get the Iraq story right. Yes, from a national point of view the invasion was a mistake. But (with apologies to Talleyrand) it was worse than a mistake, it was a crime. □



Unaffiliated and Underrepresented



CHARLES M. BLOW

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President Barack Obama is a Christian (despite the fact that most Republicans apparently still believe that his "deep down" beliefs are Muslim, according to one poll conducted last year.)

In fact, according to the Public Religion Research Institute, there have only been four "religiously unaffiliated heads of state in American history," the last being Rutherford B. Hayes, who left office in 1881. This, however, does not mean that they did not believe in God.

Perhaps the most famous unaffiliated president was Abraham Lincoln, who wrote in 1846:

"That I am not a member of any Christian Church, is true; but I have never denied the truth of the Scriptures; and I have never spoken with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or of any denomination of Christians in particular."

Now it is almost unconscionable to think of a president who didn't believe in God. In fact, a poll last year by the Pew Research Center found that not believing in God was the most negative trait a presidential candidate could have among a variety of options, even more negative than having an extramarital affair.

Furthermore, in the House and Senate at the beginning of this session of Congress, 92 percent of members were Christian, 5 percent were Jewish, 0.4 percent

each were Buddhist and Muslim and just 0.2 percent were unaffiliated. For those doing the math, that leaves only one member unaffiliated: Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz.

But how long can this overrepresentation of Christianity and underrepresentation of the unaffiliated last in government? According to a Pew report released last week, "The Christian share of the U.S. population is declining, while the number of U.S. adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing." In fact, the percentage of adults who "describe themselves as Christians has dropped by nearly 8 percentage points in just seven years," from 78.4 percent in 2007 to 70.6 percent in 2014.

But the report also found, "Over the same period, the percentage of Americans who are religiously unaffiliated - describing themselves as atheist, agnostic or 'nothing in particular' - has jumped more than 6 points, from 16.1 percent to 22.8 percent." Much of the change comes from younger people. According to the report, "About a third of older millennials (adults currently in their late 20s and early 30s) now say they have no religion, up nine percentage points among this cohort since 2007, when the same group was between ages 18 and 26."

This begs the question: How much longer will this be thought of as a strictly Christian nation (if it ever really was one) with an overwhelming Christian government?

In March, Kevin M. Kruse, a professor of history at Princeton University, argued in The New York Times Sunday Review that "the founding fathers didn't create the ceremonies and slogans that come to mind when we consider whether this is a Christian nation. Our grandfathers did." This, according to Kruse, began with anti-New Deal business leaders in the 1930s who linked capitalism to Christianity as a public rela-

tions move. From there, the idea of America as a Christian nation grew and expanded so that, according to Kruse: "Public Policy Polling reported that 57 percent of Republicans favored officially making the United States a Christian nation."

But in 2007, a survey by the First Amendment Center showed that 55 percent of Americans believed it already was one."

But what comes of this idea of a Christian nation as the percentage of Christians drops and the percentage of the unaffiliated rises?

We already see a rising sentiment in America that Christianity is under attack and losing the culture wars. Some even try to link Christian persecution abroad to the plight of Christians in this country. It is true that "Christians in the Middle East and Africa are being slaughtered, tortured, raped, kidnapped, beheaded, and forced to flee the birthplace of Christianity," as Kristen Powers wrote two years ago in The Daily Beast. And the recent rise of the Islamic State has made spectacle of the killings of Christians.

But, it seems to severely cheapen the plight of those Christians whose lives were disrupted, destroyed or even taken by comparing them to American Christians who are simply seeing their reach and influence wane. The issue in this country is less that Christians are persecuted as much as peevish.

If the unaffiliated are to make their presence felt in terms of more representation, it will most likely come on the Democratic side. As PRRI points out, in 1980 unaffiliated support for Jimmy Carter over Ronald Reagan was by a margin in the single digits by percentage; in 2012, they supported Obama over Mitt Romney by 51 percentage points.

That time will come, I believe. But for now, unaffiliated is an identity as yet unaware of its power. □

Taylor Swift: The Cool One All Along?

JON CARAMANICA

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BOSSIER CITY, La. - Toward the end of Taylor Swift's concert at the CenturyLink Center here on Wednesday night, she strapped on an electric guitar for the first time of the night and began playing some tart riffs while singing hungry little fillips. She was setting the stage for "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together,"

ure in country music, and applied it to 1980s-influenced sounds that made her one of the most conservative figures in pop. So she's still a kind of underdog, but a big dog, too. The "1989" album has gone platinum four times over, and this show was the first stand-alone date of the American leg of her "1989" world tour, which will mainly play stadiums. (This are-

of "1989." On the catty, ecstatic "I Knew You Were Trouble," she spent part of the song singing in a dusky, Lorde-like tone. And for "Enchanted," one of her most starry-eyed and least convincing songs, she sat at a Thunderdome-esque piano and sang in a knowing manner, yanking the big notes hard and giving the song new depth. Swift has always been comfort-

appeared offstage and the huge screen showed clips of some of her well-known friends - Selena Gomez, Karlie Kloss, Lena Dunham, the sisters of the band Haim, and more - singing her praises. It was a public service announcement for the healing powers of female friendship.

Swift has been actively cultivating these friendships as part of her retreat from the tabloids in recent years. Rather than be known as a serial dater, she'd prefer to be thought of as a serial befriendee. Even in "Bad Blood," a song from "1989" about an intense rivalry with another female performer (most likely Katy Perry), Swift has found a way to turn it positive. The video is a feminist superhero fantasy, with oodles of famous guests - proof of the power and depth of Swift's Rolodex and her desire to form alliances more than cast aspersions. In an interview in the June issue of Elle magazine, Swift briefly alluded to the pop landscape she's arrived at: "I don't really have much of a queen complex," she said. "There's this feeling in music right now where you have to just stand on this castle turret and not come down and talk to anyone and not be approachable and not be excitable, and you should be sexy and edgy and all these things."

No names were named - Beyoncé and Rihanna come to mind, though - but the comment highlights just how little Swift has in common with her new peers: almost as little as she had in common with her old peers. "I stalk you on a daily basis," she told the crowd; it's hard to imagine any other multiplatinum star doing that, much less admitting it. Notably, there wasn't even a hint of country here, unless you count the very young fans who still wore sundresses and cowboy boots, as Swift did a decade ago.

She played acoustic guitar briefly, on "Wonderland," a lesser-known song that wasn't quite ready to be so exposed, but otherwise she'd fully decorated this new home, covering up all the traces of the old. (There were also some opening-night sound issues.)

If she can remake herself so thoroughly in just a couple of years, what changes are yet to come? Will she collaborate with West, her former adversary, as he has said he'd like to do? Will she go full Joni Mitchell? Could she become a romantic-comedy staple, a millennial Meg Ryan? Or will she stick with her current path, letting the arbiters of cool look at her with a side eye while she trounces them all? □



Taylor Swift performs at the CenturyLink Center in Bossier City, La., May 20, 2015. Swift opened her "1989" world tour at the center in Louisiana Wednesday night. (Ben Sklar/The New York Times)

the 2012 song that became her first No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and helped turn her inexorably away from country and toward pop megastardom.

In the song, she's lashing out at a dunderheaded ex: "You would hide away and find your peace of mind/ With some indie record that's much cooler than mine."

On the album, she delivers that self-referential line with an eye roll, but when she sang it here, she turned it into a defiant shout. Suddenly, the song wasn't about fretting over someone's opinion; it was about knowing you've been the cool one all along, and finally owning it.

Whatever underdog anxieties Swift might have had earlier in her career are mostly gone. With the release in the fall of "1989" (Big Machine), her fifth album, Swift neatly ascended to the top of the pop hierarchy, largely by bypassing and ignoring most of her peers. She used the same blend of guilelessness and savvy that made her a radical fig-

na was far smaller, holding about 13,000 people.)

The album "1989" is what got her here, and "1989" is what she largely stuck to - newly grown-up songs about letdown, regret and letting go. "Out of the Woods" was booming and "Shake It Off" was cheeky and breezy. Even songs that felt like outliers on "1989" were here both integral and enrapturing, like "Clean," which lost its spacieousness; and "I Know Places," notionally about hiding from prying eyes in a new relationship, which sounded like an action-movie soundtrack. For that song, her dancers wore drapey, futuristic jackets and shimmering full head masks similar to the ones Kanye West wore on his "Yeezus" tour - spies from the future sent to swarm Swift, who dodged them easily.

She largely didn't meddle with the songs from "1989," but when it came to older material, she bent the music in unexpected ways. She performed "Love Story" in the style

able onstage, but as she gets older (she's 25), she is more willing to make herself awkward when it serves the moment. During "Blank Space," she acted out that song's angst, contorting her body and face and, at one point, wielding a golf club with casual menace. Though her lyrics have gradually begun to acknowledge the sensual, she remains effectively chaste onstage, even when flanked by shirtless dancers on "I Knew You Were Trouble." But her between-song chatter, always inspirational, now carries the weight of experience.

"You are not damaged goods just because you've made mistakes," she said. "You are not someone else's opinion of you."

This pep talk was for herself and for the crowd, which consisted mostly of girls, who might have been seeing Swift for the first time, and young women, who might have been seeing Swift since they were girls. At various intervals, Swift dis-